

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXII, Issue No. 51

THURSDAY MARCH 1, 2012

www.saipantribune.com 50¢



## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
Which do you prefer: Precinct-level representatives or islandwide representatives?

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## INSIDE

### NATION



Mitt Romney scores a home state triumph in Michigan and powers to victory in Arizona. **► PAGE 14**

### ASIA



Debris from the Japanese tsunami last year spreads halfway across the Pacific. **► PAGE 15**

### LIFE & STYLE



Paintings in the Czech Republic are found to have been owned once by Adolf Hitler. **► PAGE 19**

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**8 agencies fail to meet budget deadline. PAGE 4**

**AT \$5.159 A GALLON**

## Saipan gas prices hit historic high

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
[haidee\\_eugenio@saipantribune.com](mailto:haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER



A woman walks past a Mobil gas price display in Garapan yesterday showing Saipan's record breaking gas prices of \$5.159 to \$5.519 a gallon following Tuesday night's 10-cent hike. Saipan motorists are now paying 45 cents more for gas since the start of the year.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## Senate and House to meet with CHC today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
[haidee\\_eugenio@saipantribune.com](mailto:haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Amid the financial crisis at the hospital, the Senate and House of Representatives are set to meet today with Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. officials and staffers on the contentious \$11.58 million line of credit bill, a measure on a \$5 million Medicaid state share, and proposed changes to the law that created the corporation.

This is a follow up to the Senate leadership's meeting with CHC officials on **See SENATE on Page 4**

### RELATED NEWS

**► Babauta explores DOI funding for hospital. PAGE 3**

The price of Saipan's regular unleaded gasoline hit a record high of \$5.159 a gallon after Mobil Oil Marianas increased its pump prices Tuesday night, dwarfing gas prices across the United States and its territories at a time when island residents are dealing with work hour cuts, unemployment, and high utility costs.

**See GAS on Page 4**

## Saipan native nabbed in Ore. for 32-year-old murder case

**► Suspect left Saipan for Oregon in 1979**



Wabol

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Antonio Igisomar Wabol, a 52-year-old man arrested in Oregon late last month by Portland Police for the alleged murder of a student after an armed robbery 32 years ago, is a native of Saipan.

Golfer Jess Wabol confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Antonio Wabol is his younger brother who left

**See MURDER on Page 4**



### CAR COLLISION

Medics slowly pull out the injured driver from his wrecked car that collided with another vehicle at the Quartermaster Road and Middle Road intersection yesterday shortly before noon. Police have yet to release information about the accident.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## Hawaii rallies behind CNMI, Guam for visa waiver

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Guam Gov. Eddie B. Calvo's continued push for a CNMI-Guam Visa Waiver program for Chinese and Russian tourists got a big boost this past weekend in Washington, D.C. after Ha-

waii Gov. Neil Abercrombie signaled his full support for the idea.

In addition to the National Governors Association winter meeting, the Western Governors Association, encompassing the western states and territories, were

hosted by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack at his conference room for their winter meeting as well. Along with Vilsack, other ranking officials who joined the western governors included Interior

**See HAWAII on Page 4**



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## Local

## Soccer clinic enables children and their dads to bond

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Saipan Soccer School hosted yesterday a soccer clinic for students at the Joaquina M. Rabauliman Head Start Center in Garapan/Chinatown. About a hundred youngsters ages 3 to 6 from six classes took part in either the morning or afternoon session. The activity was so successful that it is set to become a monthly event.

Spearheading the soccer clinic were Saipan Soccer School coaches Jershwin Angeles, Ruselle Zapanta, and visiting coaches Wai Wo Lee and Andy Leung of ChelseaFC Soccer School in Hong Kong.

Both morning and afternoon sessions saw students divided into three teams, each handled by one coach for a fun-filled hour of soccer drills aimed at encouraging the students' interest in the sport.

"At Saipan Soccer School, our focus is really at the grass-roots level, developing the interest for soccer at an early age. With our soccer clinic for the Head Start students, we've developed fun activities that would teach them about coordination and teamwork while en-



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Students at the Joaquina M. Rabauliman Head Start Center in Garapan/Chinatown and their parents have their picture taken after participating in a soccer clinic hosted by the Saipan Soccer School yesterday.

joying the sport," Angeles told *Saipan Tribune*.

It wasn't just the students who had fun yesterday. Parents also got involved in line with Head Start's Fatherhood Initiative, which fosters the fathers' involvement at the center.

"Usually, we have more mothers than fathers because fathers are usually the breadwinners of the family. But we do have a good number of fathers also that are very active and come in regularly," Head Start's

Nikita Braganza said.

Braganza said the soccer clinic gives Head Start students the chance to spend time with their fathers and other male figures in the form of the soccer coaches.

Gerald Maliwanag of Gualo Rai said he attended the event for his son, 4-year-old Angelo, so they can spend time together. "I know he learned a lot through all the activities we had. We really had fun as well."

While there were some fathers who took time off for the

event, participating parents were still predominantly mothers.

"My son Charles was really looking forward to this event and he even begged his dad to skip work so they can play soccer together," said Chinatown resident Michelle Guiang.

Still, Guiang expressed her appreciation to the Saipan Soccer School for hosting the clinic which she said is a big help at this day and age when more children live sedentary lives.

Shirley Monje, who works at Rota Germanium Mineral Water, echoed Guiang's sentiment. "At least the children were able to stay outdoors and learn something new today," she said.

Monje's son, 5-year-old Francisco Dennis, was also sad that his dad couldn't make it to the clinic. "Hopefully next time, his dad can join him," she added.

Veronica Casilihan, mother of 5-year-old Angelie Tobias, said these events motivate children

to become involved with sports. "I really commend the school for doing this. My daughter enjoyed the relay race."

Saipan Soccer School's Angeles expressed hope that more fathers will participate in the activity next month.

"We promise to give them more fun, challenging, and exciting games for the kids and hopefully, through our events, we'll have in our midst future NMI soccer players," he added.

# HEALTH WALK

## MARCH 03, 2012



### Registration Information:

**Saipan: 5:30am to 8:00am – 13 Fisherman Pavilion**  
**Tinian: 6:00am to 8:00am – Tachog'na Beach**  
**Rota: 6:00am to 8:00am – Joaquin M. Ogo Softball Field**  
**– Dr. Rita Hocog Inos RJSHS**

Original was designed in 2009 by Winona Blanco-Maratita  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade Tinian High School



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

#### Office of the Executive Director



## INVITATION FOR BIDS

### CUC-IFB-12-007

#### SAN VICENTE SERVICE AREA EXTENSION, EXPLORING DRIVE-FINA SISU & HERMAN'S BAKERY WATERLINE REPLACEMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of San Vicente Service Area Extension, Exploring Drive-Fina Sisu & Herman's Bakery Waterline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The project consists, in general of the extension of the San Vicente water service area to Dandan Village and the replacement of existing water distribution line from Exploring Drive to Fina Sisu and Herman's Bakery including appurtenances.

The proposed project will also include the installation of fire hydrants, air relief valves, blow-off-valves, new service lateral stub-outs and reconnection of existing service laterals to the new water distribution line.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 350.00 for one set; at the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **February 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.

**One (1) original and Seven (7) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-007, San Vicente Service Area Extension, Exploring Drive-Fina Sisu & Herman's Bakery Waterline Replacement Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 06, 2012**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 27, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org or Yvonne Cabrera, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – mika.muna@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE  
Executive Director



## DESPITE MULTIPLE CHALLENGES

## Hospital nurses promise no abandonment of work

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center have vowed to stay on and continue to do their job despite the many challenges they are experiencing, among them uncertainties in their salaries and benefits.

CHC nursing director Leticia Reyes made this assurance yesterday in light of speculations that nurses, doctors, and other staffers are considering a walk-out due to the worsening situation at the public hospital, which

also lacks physicians, medical supplies, and equipment.

Reyes described her communication with the nursing staff as "constant and open" since taking over the post on Jan. 9. Their concerns and issues, Reyes said, have been brought to the Commonwealth Health Corp.'s attention.

The hospital has a total of 167 nurses: licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, and nursing assistants. The current staffing is a reduction from the 172 FTEs

early last year and over 200 nurses two years ago.

One nurse will leave the hospital in April to relocate to the U.S. mainland but Reyes assured that this employee's departure has nothing to do with the delayed salaries and benefits as she had already finalized her plans since last year.

"Although there are nurses who verbalized their disappointment, I really commend their dedication to their jobs. They're still here and maintain their professionalism at all times and deliver to the expectations," said Reyes.

As far as the hospital's nurses are concerned, she said there is no secret gathering or meeting that's taking place to plan for a "walk-out" or "abandonment of post."

She said the employees' reaction were only natural when they did not get their salary and benefits on time. "But nurses do understand the corporation's situation, which is undergoing critical transition," she added.

Reyes assured that the salaries of all nurses for the last payroll have been released.

According to her, the corporation is doing its best to fulfill its obligation to employees, including the release of their housing allowance, which will be four months delayed this week.

She admitted that the corporation cannot give a definite date as to when these checks will be issued, citing the pending legislation that will allow the corporation to obtain a line of credit from the Marianas Public Land Trust.

She is confident that the housing allowance for off-island hires

will be maintained.

Reyes also disclosed that no nursing position is being opened unless it is an important replacement. She is directed to maintain the 167 FTEs for nurses until the financial capability of the organization improves.

With one nursing post to become vacant next month, she plans a lateral transfer of one nurse from other stations.

Although the 167 nurses are not enough, Reyes said the delivery of quality healthcare



Reyes

at CHC is not being compromised.

Saipan Tribune learned that CHC has a ratio of one nurse for every five patients. In excess of the maximum five patients, an additional nurse is called in to render overtime.

Reyes said all nurses are working 80-hour biweekly and receive salaries that are still within the range. Compared to Guam, she said a CHC nurse's salary is just slightly lower. She refused to disclose the exact amount.

## Babauta explores DOI funding for hospital

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Juan N. Babauta, chief executive officer of the cash-strapped Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., is currently off-island not only to participate in a conference but to "touch base" with representatives of the U.S. Department of the Interior and Medicare in a bid to tap more federal resources that will help shore up the struggling Commonwealth Health Center.

Alvaro Santos, the corporation's chief financial and administrative officer, disclosed this to the Saipan Tribune, adding that he is confident in Babauta's ability to communicate the dire

straits of the hospital to federal officials and representatives.

Babauta flew to San Francisco for a weeklong conference that will be attended by representatives of Region 9, which covers states like Arizona, Hawaii, and the CNMI.

Babauta, Santos said, will take the opportunity to meet with specific federal representatives of Medicare and Interior to explain the situation of the corporation, which badly needs help to survive.

"I know for a fact that some initial discussions have begun with the Interior and the CEO wants to make a follow-up. He will also meet with Medicare people to see if there are addi-

tional resources that can be extended to the CNMI," he said.

Santos said that, although the expected approval of legislation will give the corporation a standby line of credit with the Marianas Public Land Trust, this is not enough to address all the immediate needs of organization.

Santos pointed out that without additional resources and despite a financial management system in place, the agency's operation and survival will remain critical. The corporation was only allocated \$5 million in seed capital for this fiscal year.

## Manglona denies bid to amend her order that dismissed lawsuit

The federal court has denied an investor's motion to amend the dismissal order in his lawsuit against attorney Ramon K. Quichocho and landowner Joaquin Q. Atalig.

In denying Sin Ho Nam's motion, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said the record does not show any intention for the court to retain jurisdiction after the dismissal of the case.

"The parties' themselves did not ask the court to retain settlement enforcement authority when they stipulated to dismiss the case with prejudice," said Manglona in a written order issued last week.

Nam sued Quichocho and Atalig for breaching a land lease agreement when they terminated a 55-year lease less than two years later despite having already paid \$218,000.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett found Quichocho and Atalig liable to Nam for breach of contract.

Bennett stated in his order that Nam's remedies or question of damages and the entirety of his claim for breach of fiduciary duty against Quichocho will proceed to trial.

On Sept. 12, 2011, attorneys Colin Thompson and Michael Dotts, counsel for Nam and Quichocho respectively, moved to dismiss all claims

and counterclaims after reaching a settlement. The terms of the settlement were not publicly disclosed.

Manglona dismissed the lawsuit on Oct. 18, 2011, following the parties' agreement.

On Nov. 15, 2011, Nam, through Thompson, asked the court to enforce the settlement agreement.

On Dec. 27, 2011, Manglona denied Nam's motion to enforce the agreement due to lack of jurisdiction. Manglona said a court has jurisdiction to enforce a settlement agreement only if it expressly retained such jurisdiction or otherwise embodied the settlement contract in the dismissal order.

Last month, Nam asked the court to amend the dismissal order. Thompson said the amendment is needed so that the court can enforce the settlement.

In her order last week, Manglona said a court has authority to correct a mistake arising from an oversight or omission whenever one is found in an order. Manglona said that Nam asserts that the failure to expressly retain jurisdiction was just an oversight or omission.

While Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 60(a) allows a court to correct some of its own errors, Manglona said that it does not allow it to fix the parties' own mistakes. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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# 8 agencies fail to meet budget submission deadline

» Senate committee says DPS, Corrections, PSS exceed 1st quarter allotments

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Eight government agencies, including the Legislature, Public School System, and Northern Marianas College, failed to meet the Feb. 29 deadline to submit their fiscal year 2013 budget requests to the Office of Management and Budget. At the same time, Senate Fiscal Af-

fairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that three agencies—departments of Public Safety and Corrections and PSS—have so far exceeded their individual budget for the first quarter of fiscal year 2012 based on their ongoing budget assessment meetings.

Acting press secretary Teresa Kim, counsel for the lieutenant governor,

said the eight agencies that were not able to submit their 2013 budget proposal at 4:30pm yesterday were the Legislative Branch, Department of Public Works, Rota Municipal Council, Tinian Municipal Council, NMI Occupational Information Coordination Committee, PSS, and the CNMI Board of Education.

“Please take note that some depart-

ments/agencies may be in the process of submitting,” Kim said.

NMC president Sharon Hart, after yesterday’s meeting with the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee on 2012 and 2013 budget issues, told reporters that the college was working on its 2013 budget submission to the Executive Branch.

Virginia Villagomez, the governor’s special assistant for management and budget, sent out a memo over a month ago asking agencies to meet the Feb. 29 deadline to submit their budgets.

Meeting the deadline, she said, will give the Office of Management and Budget enough time to evaluate the requests and meet with each agency during the week of March 12 through March 15.

Villagomez had said that the Fitial administration expects the 2013 budget to remain stagnant at the 2012 level of \$102 million and still with the 16-hour cuts biweekly and unpaid holidays.

The governor has until April 1 to submit his 2013 budget request to the Legislature. Without a budget passed by Oct. 1, the government will have to shut down.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday that the Legislature historically does not formally submit a budget to the Executive Branch.

“The Legislature’s budget is pretty much straightforward. You just multiply the constitutionally mandated salary with 29 members of the Legislature, and then their office budget times 29. Usually, the administration follows the previous year’s budget,” he said.

## Retirees’ meeting today postponed

This is to inform all retirees and beneficiaries that the public meeting for all NMI retirees on Saipan that was scheduled for today, March 1, 2012, at 6pm, has been postponed to March 6, 2012, 6pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center. **(PR)**

## Ex-cop in theft case released from jail

Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday released on bail Servando C. Regis, a former police officer who allegedly stole \$3,500 cash by deceiving a customer of a car shop.

Camacho allowed the 37-year-old Regis to post \$300 or 10 percent of \$3,000 cash bail, plus \$2,700 unsecured bond.

The judge found the defendant’s pro-

posed third party custodian suitable.

Regis will be arraigned on March 12 at 9am.

In the government’s opposition to bail modification, assistant attorney general James B. McAllister said based on defendant’s theft in this case and statements from his former employer, Regis seems to have developed a habit

of “ripping off” unsuspecting victims.

Police arrested Regis on Monday.

Detective Alexander Sakisat stated in his report that the victim, Emilio Santos, reported that he made several payments to Regis totaling \$3,500 for the repair of his car.

Police learned that Regis used to work as a runner for TBK Auto Shop, but was no longer employed there. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

## HAWAII

From Page 1

Secretary Ken Salazar, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, and Nancy Sutley, chairperson of President Obama’s Council on Environmental Quality.

While there was widespread discussion on broader issues affecting the western states, Hawaii joined the CNMI and Guam in drawing focus on the need for a visa waiver program that would open the doors to potentially millions of Chinese and Russian tourists and businesses. In fact, Abercrombie wants to see the waiver expanded to include Hawaii. He also said enacting

such a unique and isolated waiver program in Hawaii, Guam, and the CNMI would give the Department of Homeland Security the opportunity it needs to establish a template that could later be applied to other states.

Fitial agreed and noted that at any time down the line DHS feels that the waiver program is not working, the agency can simply terminate it. Fitial, along with Calvo and Abercrombie, urged the federal government to put a stop to the “waiting game” because millions, or perhaps billions of dollars in potential tourism revenue is being lost the longer DHS takes “just thinking about it.”

While short of a visa waiver program, the CNMI currently benefits

from DHS’ parole authority system that allows tourists from China and Russia to travel to the Commonwealth for a maximum of 45 days. Just this past January, DHS extended the same type of parole to Guam, but only for Russian tourists. Still, the absence of a visa waiver program continues to discourage throngs of travelers from visiting the Marianas region.

The efforts of the governors on the visa waiver issue resulted in a follow-up meeting organized by Salazar at his office. This time, along with the three governors, also present were Interior Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta and Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Douglas Smith. **(Office of the Governor)**

## GAS

From Page 1

Tuesday night’s 10-cent increase marked the fourth round of price hikes since January 2012, totaling 45 cents.

Super unleaded gasoline is now \$5.479 a gallon on Saipan. Diesel now costs \$5.519 a gallon.

The CNMI Division of Energy, which has been monitoring gas prices, said yesterday that the \$5.159 a gallon of regular gas is the highest recorded in CNMI history. Other residents and government officials said they’ve never seen gas prices on Saipan this high.

Shell Marianas’ pump prices remained the same as of press time, but the two oil giants historically mirror each other’s price changes.

“This is too much, and it’s very sad for everyone. It seems like we’re working more to be able to buy gas and pay for our power, more than to buy food and other basic goods,” motorist Pilar Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at a Mobil service station in Garapan yesterday morning.

Deleon Guerrero, of China Town, said it’s about time households make a list of things to do and buy when they leave home to cut unnecessary trips for only one or two sets of errands. The mother of four hopes that gas prices won’t further increase.

“It’s not too long ago when they increased the prices. Here’s another one,” she said, adding that she only learned about the latest price increase when asked for this interview.

For those earning an hourly \$5.05 minimum wage in the CNMI, they would have to work more than hour

just to be able to buy the cheapest gas on Saipan.

Nick Mikel, 44, said the steady increase in gas prices is “hurting everybody.”

“But what can we do? Even the governor and the congressmen cannot do anything about it. It’s increasing not only here but other parts of the world,” said the unemployed father of two.

Because they have already cut cost in all other aspects of their household expenses, Mikel said he has learned a new way to cope with the ever increasing gas prices.

“I guess we just have to close our eyes every time we buy gas and not look at the price anymore,” he said.

If one thinks Saipan pump prices are already “too high,” think again, because its sister islands of Rota and Tinian—which are expected to also increase pump prices in the next few days—have the highest prices on American soil.

Average gas price in the United States on Feb. 28 was \$3.682 a gallon, still much lower than Saipan’s pump prices of \$5.159 to \$5.519 a gallon.

Guam’s regular gas also increased by 10 cents on Tuesday night, pushing the price to \$4.98 a gallon.

Among U.S. states, Hawaii still has the highest average price at \$4.329 a gallon as of Feb. 28, followed by California with \$4.318, Alaska with \$4.124, New York with \$3.948, and Connecticut with \$3.928.

The states with the lowest average gas price as of Feb. 28 are Wyoming with \$3.079 a gallon, Colorado with \$3.149, Utah with \$3.250, Montana with \$3.255, and Idaho with \$3.349.

Toom Stoffer, 45, said she has started

using a motorcycle for months now to save on gas and save money. But the 10-cent increase yesterday, she said, is again eating up on her supposed savings.

“And I’m surprised that the prices went up again,” she said. Saipan gas prices went up by 15 cents only on Valentine’s Day.

Mobil and Shell do not issue advance notices for any gas price change. Officials from Mobil and Shell have yet to respond to media inquiries about the latest round of price increases.

Mobil earlier said that prices of gasoline are determined by a number of factors, including changes in the world market wholesale prices of gasoline, regional gasoline supply and demand balance, transportation costs, insurance, local distribution, marketing costs, government regulations, taxes, competitive market forces, and investments in retail stations and distribution terminals.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication, said he has never seen gas prices on Saipan this high.

“Regular gas could have reached \$5 before, but only a little over \$5 and went back to over \$4 immediately. I remember after the war, gas price was 10 to 15 cents a gallon,” he said.

Torres has long been asking the Office of the Attorney General to investigate whether Mobil and Shell are engaged in price fixing, and determine whether the prices they have been imposing in the CNMI are reasonable and reflect real market conditions. Torres said Mobil and Shell are quick to increase gas prices, but are either slow or do not lower prices once world prices go down.

## SENATE

From Page 1

Tuesday afternoon. This time around, the Senate leadership invited House members and the administration.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, said yesterday he is amenable to maintaining the number of CHC board members at seven instead of five that the Senate approved last week.

But he said even if the number is reduced to five, the Senate would still want at least two physicians on the board.

Torres said the Senate is firm on making the board a governing one instead of just an advisory board, citing other government boards and commissions that appoint the chief executive officer or executive director, not the governor.

As for the reestablishment of the Department of Public Health, he said most of the programs or units under it are federally funded anyway so a general

fund appropriation won’t be that much.

Torres also hopes to discuss further with CHC the two Senate-substituted House bills passed on Thursday night and how these two bills would help stem the financial crisis at the hospital.

Torres reiterated that the passage of House Bill 17-261 makes up for the difference in the amount going to CHC under the Senate version of HB 17-278 or the \$11.58 million line of credit bill.

The Senate version of HB 17-261 makes the \$5 million “seed” money appropriated to CHC as the state share of the required matching funds for Medicaid reimbursements to the corporation and would therefore yield a reimbursement of \$5 million that will also go to CHC, senators and the Fitial administration had said.

HB 17-278, meanwhile, authorizes the Marianas Public Land Trust to provide up to \$11.58 million line of credit.

But House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) said the Senate version of HB 17-278 is problematic and could be unconstitutional.

## MURDER

From Page 1

Saipan for Oregon after graduating from high school in 1979.

Jess Wabol said he last saw his brother in 1974 because it was at that time when he (Jess) left Saipan to study in the U.S.

“I’m saddened, but what can we do? It’s already in the hands of federal people in the states,” he said about his brother’s arrest.

On Saipan, Jess Wabol said, his brother is more popularly known as Isidro and not Antonio.

According to Portland Police’s press release issued Jan. 25, 2012, a Multnomah County grand jury indicted that same day Antonio Wabol for two counts of aggravated murder with a firearm over the killing of Myong Su Cho.

Portland Police said that on Jan. 18, 1980, the 29-year-old Cho was shot after an armed robbery at the Plaid Pantry near the Portland State University campus.

Cho was an employee of Plaid Pantry and was a student at Portland State University.

The investigation grew cold due to the few leads that were available at the time.

In 2011, Portland Police Cold Case Homicide Unit investigator Dennis Baker, a retired detective, re-examined the case file and submitted evidence to the Oregon State Police Crime Lab.

Through the investigation, Antonio Wabol was identified as the suspect. The police statement did not indicate the evidence and circumstances that led to Wabol being identified as the prime suspect in the case. He is currently in custody at the Multnomah County Jail.

Chris Girard, president and chief executive officer of Plaid Pantries Inc., said in a statement that Plaid Pantries and all its employees highly commend the diligence and perseverance of the Portland Police in resolving this tragic event.

“Even with the lengthy passage of time, a loss such as this can never be erased for family, friends, and co-workers. The exceptional work by detectives in this case does bring a very important additional measure of closure, and a significant degree of comfort in knowing that justice ultimately prevails,” Girard said.

Portland Police Bureau’s Cold Case Homicide Unit is composed of a sergeant and four detectives who get help from retired investigators. The group, whose motto is, “We don’t give up. We never give up” is funded by a federal grant.



# CDA frets about CUC's ability to make dividend payments

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority plans to meet with officials of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to discuss the status of its dividend payment under the preferred stock agreement between the two agencies.

In a meeting on Feb. 22, CDA executive director Man-

uel A. Sablan and board members expressed concerns about CUC's ability to meet its dividend obligation based on their financial situation.

CDA and CUC signed in May 2009 an agreement converting the latter's \$40 million debt with the former into cumulative, non-convertible and non-transferrable preferred stocks that would yield 2 percent annual dividends amortized interest-

free for 15 years.

Sablan said that based on the agreement, the dividends would begin accruing by Oct. 1, 2012, three years after the payment moratorium.

"There's a lot of concessions provided CUC," Sablan emphasized at the meeting.

Sablan told the CDA board that he attended a public hearing by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission on Jan. 25 to comment on CUC's efforts to increase its electric base rate owing to a \$1.08 million revenue requirement to make dividend payments to CDA in fiscal year 2012.

Sablan testified at the hearing to remove the revenue requirement in the electric base rate evaluation, the same recom-

mendation made by CPUC's consultant, Georgetown Consulting, which was adopted by the commission during its Jan. 29 meeting.

Board member Marcie Tomokane argued that the purpose of the moratorium given to CUC was for them start putting up "an escrow or sinking fund" so that when October 2012 comes, CUC will have something to dip into to make payments to CDA.

"CUC cannot say that they have to raise their rates because they have to pay back because the sinking fund should have been there two and a half years ago," Tomokane emphasized.

"We found out that they did not establish the sinking fund for that purpose," replied Sablan.

Sablan pointed out that they need to meet with CUC to determine their financial position or "whether they have the ability to pay or not to pay."

In an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* on Tuesday, Sablan explained that any increase in utility rates would have "a very negative" impact from the standpoint of promoting economic and commercial development in the CNMI.

Sablan said they plan to invite CUC officials in time for their

board meeting this month. He added that they are also looking at inviting CPUC but it is currently not functioning due to a lack of commissioners. It needs at least two members to be active once again. At this point, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has only re-appointed Viola Alepuyo, who still awaits her Senate confirmation.

Another board member, Pedro Itibus, also raised the issue of CDA having a representative in the CUC board "to have a say so in whatever decision that would be made." A CUC board is non-existent at this point.

Board member Diego Songao added that CDA needs the dividend payments from CUC to fund more loans for potential investors in the Commonwealth.



Sablan

## JKPL trains Rota library staff

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Two staffers of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library are currently on Rota to train the two full-time employees of the Rota Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Public Library, which had its soft opening on Monday.

Children's Library associate Erlinda Naputi and Information Technology Center coordinator Roy Rechebei are on Rota to assist their staff on library-related capacity building matters, said executive director John Oliver Gonzales.

"Both will conduct basic familiarization sessions about proper and efficient use of IT and public library in general to impart and internalize upon the community of Rota the irreplaceable value and vital role our public libraries play in our constant search for knowledge and an educated and informed citizenry in a thriving and vibrant island democracy like ours," Gonzales told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gonzales said Naputi is training the Rota library staff on categorizing collections based on the Dewey decimal system, cataloging collections, upload-

ing records, processing and labeling with customized bar codes, shelf reading, and proper shelving, among others.

Rechebei is installing eight computer desktops for the library—one computer to be used by the staff while the rest will be for library patrons.

He is also setting up the Rota library's ITC by connecting the staff computer to the Horizons 7.5.1 Information Management System, the online catalog database for circulation, to provide patrons and staff with the same access as that of Saipan and Tinian.

Naputi and Rechebei will be on Rota until Friday to resolve any library-related issues.

"Our goal is to work with all public libraries to provide free computer and library basics classes to interested community members year round, in addition to offering our facilities as neutralizers and equalizers of our communities and a sanctuary and refuge from modern-day pressures and competing priorities," added Gonzales.

The Rota Public Library is open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 5pm. For more information, call 532-0120.

## Courthouse schedule in March

With the limited financial resources provided to the Judiciary in the government's appropriations measure for fiscal year 2012, the CNMI Judicial Council has adopted measures to implement a reduction of personnel work hours and courthouse hours of operation.

Through the end of March the courthouses on all three islands will be open with full operations except as noted below:

### Saipan

■ Limited operation on Friday, March 9, 2012

On days of limited operations, only essential services of the Office of the Clerk of Court, the Office of Adult Probation Services, the Family Court Division, the Marshal Service Division, and Judicial Chambers will be provided. Courts will address certain docket requirements, emergency and related prescheduled matters. The Administrative Services Unit (cashier), Information Systems Unit, Building & Maintenance Unit, Office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Law Revision Commission, and Judiciary Administrative

Office will be closed.

■ Closed on Friday, March 23, 2012 (Covenant Day)

### Rota

■ Closed on: Monday, March 5, 2012

### Tinian

■ Closed on: Friday, March 23, 2012 (Covenant Day)

### Future Judiciary hours of operation

The CNMI Judicial Council considers its hours of operation on a month-to-month basis to evaluate available financial resources, operations, and the provision of judicial services during this period of austerity. The Judicial Council will meet again on March 14, 2012. The hours of operation for April will be released shortly after the meeting on the CNMI Judiciary website, <http://www.justice.gov.mp/>.

Additional information may be obtained by calling the Clerk of Court's office phone number, 236-9765 on Saipan, 433-3410 on Tinian and 532-9422 Rota, or by contacting the Supreme Court's Public Information Office at 236-9716. (CNMI Judiciary)

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Life in Motion



# CNMI gets \$10.9M grants at start of IGIA plenary session

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Secretary Ken Salazar greeted and spoke about the department’s efforts to empower insular communities as chief executives and congressional leaders from each of the U.S. insular areas gathered yesterday morning for the 2012 Interagency Group on Insular Areas meeting with senior-level representatives from over 20 federal agencies to discuss issues concerning American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The meeting was convened at the White House Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

Interior Assistant Secretary Tony M. Babauta was joined by David Agnew, recently appointed by President Obama to

serve as the Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and the White House IGIA co-chair.

Also present at the plenary session were American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono, CNMI Gov. Benigno Fitial, Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, and Virgin Islands Gov. John P. de Jongh; along with the congressional delegation from the U.S. territories: Delegates Eni Faleomavaega (AmSam), Donna M. Christensen (USVI), Madeleine Z. Bordallo (Guam), and Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (CNMI).

Salazar presented Tulafono with an award commemorating his participation and contribution to the IGIA throughout his tenure as governor of American Samoa. Togiola is serving the last year of his second term as governor of American Samoa.



The following grants were also awarded:  
**AMERICAN SAMOA**

- \$20,000 Technical Assistance Program grant to the Development Bank of American Samoa to continue recruiting MBA students as short-term consultants for facilitating improvements at DBAS.
- \$250,000 Technical Assistance Program grant for the American Samoa Department of Education to hire consultants to conduct an analysis of current processes and procedures
- \$10,089,000 in Capital Improvement Project grants for several projects.

- CNMI**
- \$1 million Technical Assistance Program grant for the CNMI Department of Public Safety to purchase fire trucks and ambulances
  - \$250,000 Maintenance Assistance Program grant for the CNMI Department of Public Safety to fund Fire Arson Investigative training as well as the EMS training for staff
  - \$225,454 Technical Assistance Program grant for the CNMI Public School System
  - \$9,523,000 in Capital Improvement Project grants for the following projects:
    - Saipan Water Projects,

- \$4,532,250
- Garapan Revitalization, \$1,350,000
- Saipan Solid Waste, 1,260,000
- Tinian Landfill, 1,190,375
- Rota Landfill, 1,190,375

- GUAM**
- \$933,052 Technical Assistance Program grant for the Department of Revenue and Taxation to purchase and install an IBM I Series Power 7 server
  - \$600,000 Technical Assistance Program grant for the Department of Revenue and Taxation to purchase and implement the Meta Tag Document Management System
  - \$4,806,000 in Capital Improvement Project grants.

- AMERICAN SAMOA**
- TA award of \$25,000 for the New American Samoa Procurement Rules Printing and Training. This will fund the printing of the new procurement rules written by the AS Office of Legal Affairs, as well as training for all three branches of government and

- the private sector
- OMIP award of \$50,000 to fund the Consumer Price Index Quality Assurance Review and Training. This will provide funding for a consultant to train data collectors and statistical staff on new techniques for improving calculations and maintaining quality assurance
  - TA award of \$38,300 for Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services Cost Report Training for LBJ staff. This will fund training for department managers and finance staff that will equip them with skills and knowledge in collecting and filing proper documentation as well as preparing timely professional cost reports.

- OMIP award of \$25,000 to fund the hospital’s online medical library which will improve service and allow the staff to have access to a range of specialists and sub-specialists resources. It will also allow medical providers at the hospital to have immediate access to the full range of treatment options, peer reviewed research, and standards of care available online

- OMIP award of \$50,000 to go toward training staff, pending the formal proposal which we have not yet received

- U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**
- \$200,000 Technical Assistance Program Reimbursable Agreement with the National Park Service to document multiple historic structures on Hassel Island associated with the Napoleonic Wars harbor defenses of Charlotte Amalie
  - \$175,000 Technical Assistance Program grant to the Bureau of Internal Revenue to increase funding available to convert the excise tax program into AS40

- \$445,000 Technical Assistance Program grant to the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Health for implementing a central cancer registry (\$418,000) and to automate the Department of Health’s Board licensing, credentialing and renewal processes (\$27,000)

- \$2.02 million in Capital Improvement Project grants for several projects. **(DOI)**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
RFP12-OHS-048**

SUBMISSION: MARCH 28, 2012 • TIME: 3:00 P.M.

**“PURCHASE, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES FOR THE CNMI OPERATIONS CENTER AND THE CNMI DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY”**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE DRIVE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. CARL DELA CRUZ, OHS PROCUREMENT OFFICER BY E-MAIL TO [ohs.delacruz@gmail.com](mailto:ohs.delacruz@gmail.com) NO LATER THAN THE **CLOSE OF BUSINESS, MARCH 15, 2012.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT

/s/ MARVIN K. SEMAN  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

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**NOTICE OF APPLICATION**

**March 01, 2012**

**THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:**

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. My Care Co.	01/03/2012 SSm-2012-X-001	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Area	Shoreline APC	Approved (01/03/2012)*
2. CUC	01/15/2012 SPlm-2012-X-002	Rehabilitation of Lift Station (S-3)	Lower Base	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (01/17/2012)*
3. Saipan Sunset Cruise	01/10/2012	In-Water Maintenance	Outer Cove, Marina	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (01/11/2012)*
4. Saipan Sunset Cruise	01/10/2012 SLRm-2012-X-004	Mooring Bouy	Managaha	Lagoon & Reef APC	Under Review
5. Good Day Coordinating	01/13/2012 SSm-2012-X-005	Photographic Activities	Saipan Shoreline Area	Shoreline APC	Approved (01/19/2012)*
6. Water Task Force	01/19/2012 SSm-2012-X-006	Waterline Detection & Repair	Oleai / Garapan	Shoreline APC	Approved (01/19/2012)*
7. YM Micronesia	01/19/2012 SS/T/R/LRm-2012-X007	Photographic Activities	Spn,TIQ,Rota & Managaha	Shoreline & Lagoon Reef APC	Approved (01/19/2012)*
8. Pacific Subsea Saipan, Inc.	01/23/2012 SPlm-2012-X-008	Dry Dock	South Sea Ramp	Ports & Industrial APC	Approved (01/24/2012)*
9. BSEA, Inc	01/25/2012 SLRm-2012-X-009	Wake Board Operation	Tanapag Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (01/25/2012)*
10. BSEA, Inc	01/25/2012 SLRm-2012-X-010	Snorkeling Tour	Garapan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (01/25/2012)*
11. Hotel Palace	01/26/2012 SMS-95-X-141 (A)	Permit Extension	Airport	Amendment	Approved (01/26/2012)*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (\*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

Steven “Zaji” Farmer  
Shin Zhang Zhong Apts.  
Mafute & Uhang #24,  
San Antonio  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone No.: (Glen)  
483-8035

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF  
THE COMMONWEALTH OF  
THE NORTHERN MARIANA  
ISLANDS**

**In the Matter of ]  
the Petition for ]  
the Change of ]  
Name of: ]  
Steven Farmer ]  
Petitioner. ]**

**FCD CN  
CIVIL  
ACTION  
NO. 12-0082**

**NOTICE OF  
HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on March 15, 2012, at 9:30am in Courtroom 217A before Honorable Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 14th day of February, 2012.

BERNADITA SABLAN  
Clerk of Court

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court



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MARCH 1-10, 2012

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<div>Chicken Leg Quarter</div> <div></div> <div><div>LIMIT 1</div><div>\$25<sup>99</sup></div></div> <div><div>\$19<sup>99</sup></div><div>22 LBS.</div></div>	<div>Whole Chicken</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$37<sup>99</sup></div><div>30 LBS.</div></div>	<div>Baby Ribs</div> <div></div> <div><div>LIMIT 2</div><div>\$21<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Spareribs</div> <div></div> <div><div>LIMIT 2</div><div>\$21<sup>99</sup></div><div>20 LBS.</div></div>	<div>Milkfish</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>59</sup></div><div>/LB.</div></div> <div><div>Tilapia</div><div></div><div><div>\$1<sup>29</sup></div><div>/LB.</div></div></div>	<div>Similac/Enfamil</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$15<sup>99</sup></div><div>12.5 OZ.</div></div>	<div>Promil</div> <div></div> <div><div>Ages 4 Up 1.8 KG.</div><div>\$25<sup>99</sup></div></div> <div><div>Ages 1 to 3 1.8 KG.</div><div>\$27<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Anchor Milk</div> <div></div> <div><div>2.5Kg.</div><div>\$28<sup>99</sup></div></div> <div><div>Gain Plus 1.8 KG.</div><div>\$29<sup>99</sup></div><div></div></div>	<div>Chewing Tobacco Twist</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$14<sup>95</sup></div></div>			
<div>Chicken Wings</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$11<sup>99</sup></div><div>5 LBS.</div></div>	<div>Banquet Sausage Links</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>79</sup></div><div>7 OZ.</div><div>All Flavors</div></div>	<div>Gusto Ham</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$18<sup>99</sup></div><div>10 LBS.</div></div>	<div>Ground Beef</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$10<sup>99</sup></div><div>5 LBS.</div></div>	<div>Beef Backribs</div> <div></div> <div><div>20 LBS.</div><div>\$27<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Squid</div> <div></div> <div><div>1 LB.</div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div><div>BOX</div></div>	<div>Seaport Imitation Crab Stick</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Hotlinks Sausage</div> <div></div> <div><div>1.5 LB.</div><div>\$3<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Carrots</div> <div></div> <div><div>99¢</div><div>/BAG</div></div>			
<div>Ichiban</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$10<sup>95</sup></div><div>/BOX</div></div>	<div>Royal Spaghetti</div> <div></div> <div><div>1 Kg.</div><div>\$2<sup>39</sup></div></div>	<div>Rice Stick</div> <div></div> <div><div>18 OZ.</div><div>\$1<sup>19</sup></div></div> <div><div>16 OZ.</div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Flour Stick</div> <div></div> <div><div>18 OZ.</div><div>99¢</div></div> <div><div>16 OZ.</div><div>\$1<sup>89</sup></div></div>	<div>Cabbage</div> <div></div> <div><div>89¢</div><div>/LB.</div></div>	<div>Garlic</div> <div></div> <div><div>(3 pcs.)</div><div>99¢</div><div>/PACK</div></div>	<div>Potato (Jumbo)</div> <div></div> <div><div>89¢</div><div>/LB.</div></div>	<div>Orange</div> <div></div> <div><div>99¢</div><div>/LB.</div></div>	<div>Apple Cello</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>99</sup></div><div>/PACK</div></div>			
<div>Spam (All Flavors)</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$2<sup>39</sup></div></div>	<div>Hormel Corned Beef Hash</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Ox &amp; Palm Corned Beef</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$2<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Black Label</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>79</sup></div></div>	<div>Libby's Vienna Sausage</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>29</sup></div><div>9oz</div></div>	<div>Armour Vienna Sausage</div> <div></div> <div><div>5 oz.</div><div>59¢</div><div>each</div></div>	<div>Ace Tuna</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>29</sup></div></div>	<div>Bumblebee Tuna</div> <div></div> <div><div>89¢</div></div>	<div>Sunflower Tuna</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>29</sup></div></div>	<div>Coco Tuna</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>29</sup></div></div>	<div>Master A1 Tuna</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>29</sup></div></div>	<div>Ligo Sardines</div> <div></div> <div><div>3 for \$1<sup>00</sup></div></div>
<div>Kimchee Base</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$5<sup>99</sup></div><div>450G</div></div>	<div>Hormel Chili No Beans</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>79</sup></div></div>	<div>Hunts Pork &amp; Beans</div> <div></div> <div><div>BUY 1 GET 1 FREE</div><div>99¢</div><div>390g</div></div>	<div>Dinty Moore Beef Stew</div> <div></div> <div><div>15 OZ.</div><div>\$1<sup>69</sup></div></div>	<div>DelMonte Whole Kernel Corn</div> <div></div> <div><div>89¢</div></div>	<div>Kikkoman</div> <div></div> <div><div>LIMIT 2</div><div>\$3<sup>99</sup></div><div>1.6 L</div></div>	<div>Vlassic Dill Pickles Sliced</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$5<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Lemon Powder</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$4<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Gold Medal Flour</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$2<sup>99</sup></div><div>5 LBS.</div></div>	<div>Maseka Flour</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>99</sup></div><div>5 lb.</div></div>	<div>Korean Flour</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>79</sup></div><div>5 lb.</div></div>	<div>Corn Starch</div> <div></div> <div><div>99¢</div><div>1 LB.</div></div>
<div>Crisco Shortening</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$5<sup>49</sup></div><div>3 LB.</div></div>	<div>Crisco Pure Vegetable Oil</div> <div></div> <div><div>1 Gal</div><div>\$10<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>AVO White Distilled Vinegar</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>99</sup></div><div>1 GALLON</div></div>	<div>Salad Oil</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$29<sup>99</sup></div><div>5 GALLON/TIN</div></div> <div><div>\$32<sup>99</sup></div><div>5 GALLON/BOX</div></div>	<div>Sugar</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>49</sup></div><div>1 KG.</div></div> <div><div>\$2<sup>99</sup></div><div>2 KG.</div></div>	<div>Best Food Mayonnaise 64 OZ.</div> <div></div> <div><div>REG. \$10<sup>99</sup></div><div>NOW \$7<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Real Fresh</div> <div></div> <div><div>1 LITER</div><div>\$21<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Foremost Milk</div> <div></div> <div><div>1 LITER</div><div>\$20<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Anchor Reg. Milk</div> <div></div> <div><div>1 LITER</div><div>\$17<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Carnation Evap Milk</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>19</sup></div><div>FROM U.S.</div></div> <div><div>89¢</div><div>FROM PHILIPPINES</div></div>	<div>Coffee Mate</div> <div></div> <div><div>50oz</div><div>\$8<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Maxwell House Coffee Mix</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div><div>/20 STICKS</div></div> <div><div>\$7<sup>99</sup></div><div>/100 STICKS</div></div>
<div>Kato Juice</div> <div></div> <div><div>2 \$1<sup>00</sup> for \$7<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Chamorro Punch</div> <div></div> <div><div>2 LITERS</div><div>\$6<sup>99</sup></div><div>BOTTLE</div></div>	<div>Nestea Iced Tea Mix</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$8<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Kool Aid</div> <div></div> <div><div>22 QT.</div><div>\$8<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Tang</div> <div></div> <div><div>22 QT.</div><div>\$8<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Exo Assam Black Tea in Can</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$8<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Magnolia Juice Mix</div> <div></div> <div><div>2 for \$3<sup>00</sup></div></div>	<div>Fiesta Spaghetti Sweet Blend Sauce 500g.</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>79</sup></div></div>	<div>Kellogg's Corn Pop 12.5 OZ.</div> <div></div> <div><div>2 for \$5<sup>00</sup></div><div>for \$2<sup>99</sup> EACH</div></div>	<div>Fita/Skyflakes/Sunflower Crackers</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>99</sup></div><div>850 G.</div></div>	<div>Salt</div> <div></div> <div><div>89¢</div></div>	<div>U.S. Eggs XL</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$2<sup>39</sup></div><div>/DOZ.</div></div> <div><div>\$2<sup>89</sup></div><div>/DOZ. Local Eggs L.</div></div>
<div>Magnolia Water</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$8<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div><div>35 BOTTLES=</div></div>	<div>Wilkins</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$2<sup>99</sup></div><div>6000 ML.</div></div>	<div>Saipan Ice 500ml. 20 Bottles</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$5<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Sunkist Juice</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$6<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Ritz Cola</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$12<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Springfield Cola</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$10<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Coke (All Flavors)</div> <div></div> <div><div>WARM ONLY</div><div>\$14<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>San Miguel Beer Light/Pale Pilsen Can</div> <div></div> <div><div>WARM ONLY</div><div>\$21<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>San Miguel Beer Bottled</div> <div></div> <div><div>WARM ONLY</div><div>\$23<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Red Horse Beer 1000 ML.</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$14<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	<div>Budlight/Budweiser Warm only</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$28<sup>99</sup></div><div>/CASE</div></div>	
<div>Gain Powder</div> <div></div> <div><div>LIMIT 2</div><div>\$17<sup>99</sup></div><div>120 LOADS</div></div>	<div>Gain Liquid Detergent (All Kinds)</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$5<sup>99</sup></div><div>50 OZ.</div></div>	<div>Purex Laundry Soap</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$4<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Joy Dish.</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$5<sup>99</sup></div><div>90 OZ.</div></div>	<div>Dawn Dish.</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$7<sup>99</sup></div><div>90 OZ.</div></div>	<div>Luv's Big Box (All Sizes)</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$17<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Mega Drypers (All Sizes)</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$14<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Silky Baby Wipes</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>39</sup></div></div>	<div>Charmin Regular</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$6<sup>99</sup></div><div>24 ROLLS</div></div>	<div>Bounty Paper Towel SELECT A SIZE</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$18<sup>99</sup></div><div>15 ROLLS</div></div>	<div>Huggies Snug &amp; Dry BOX 3, 4, 5 &amp; 6</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$19<sup>99</sup></div></div>	
<div>Tide Detergent</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>99</sup></div><div>2.8 KG.</div></div> <div><div>\$6<sup>99</sup></div><div>5 KG.</div></div>	<div>Colgate Regular 150ml</div> <div></div> <div><div>2 for \$3<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Pantene Shampoo &amp; Conditioner (All Kinds) 375ml</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$4<sup>99</sup></div><div>EACH</div></div>	<div>Head &amp; Shoulders (All Kinds) 420ml</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$4<sup>99</sup></div><div>EACH</div></div>	<div>Palmolive Shampoo &amp; Conditioner</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$1<sup>99</sup></div><div>EACH</div></div>	<div>Diamond Foil</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$6<sup>99</sup></div><div>200 sq.ft.</div></div>	<div>Axxion Foam Plates 125 CT</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$7<sup>99</sup></div><div>LIMIT 1</div></div>	<div>Gillete Fusion 4 Cartridges 4 Cartouches</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$16<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>Clorox</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$3<sup>29</sup></div><div>90oz.</div></div> <div><div>\$5<sup>99</sup></div><div>1.42 Gal.</div></div>	<div>Prize Dog Food 20 LBS.</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$19<sup>99</sup></div></div>	<div>1 Burner Gas Stove</div> <div></div> <div><div>\$11<sup>99</sup></div></div>	

...the places where you can buy goods at affordable and low prices...



# Korean media arrive for Saipan Marathon

Five representatives of two Korean media outlets arrived on Saipan yesterday to cover the 7th Saipan Marathon on Saturday, March 3. Their coverage will bring \$740,000 in ad exposure in Korea for this beach resort destination.

The Saipan Marathon continues to grow in size and regional popularity, attracting the largest contingent yet of runners for the marathon, half-marathon, 10K, and 50K ultra-marathon.

The Marianas Visitors Authority, organizer of the event, is also assisting Elle on TV and *Lady KyungHyang* with airline tickets, visa processing, film permitting, and ground handling.

"The [familiarization] tour of Elle on TV and *Lady Kyun-*

*gHyang* is a double win for the Northern Marianas," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bate-man. "Not only are they helping us get the word out about the Saipan Marathon, but they will also feature other attractions our islands have to offer visitors, whether athletes or not."

*ELLE Korea* is the nation's best selling monthly fashion magazine with a circulation of one million copies every month. In addition to the magazine, *ELLE Korea* launched the cable TV channel ELLE on TV in January 2010. The channel airs fashion, culture, art, travel and lifestyle shows, reaches 8.5-million households, and is also available via satellite TV, Internet and IP TV platforms. In

addition to producing a 30-minute TV show with 15 re-runs, four sister magazines will each run a one-page article on the marathon: *Elle*, *Elle Girl*, *Luel*, and *Avenuel*.

*Lady KyungHyang* is a monthly fashion and lifestyle magazine targeting women ages 25-35. The magazine shares its contents with four major Internet portal sites, and it's the most-read and most-searched Korean magazine on the web. *Lady KyungHyang* will produce a 6-page article on the Northern Marianas.

The media group will spend its first day and night on Tinian, taking in a stargazing tour, an island tour via all-terrain vehicle, and a turtle-watching snorkel-

ing tour. Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino will welcome the group with a teppanyaki dinner.

On Saipan, the group will stay at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, with a representative of *Lady Kyunghyang* running in the Saipan Marathon on Saturday. Other stops on their itinerary include the Garapan Street Market, the SandCastle Saipan Las Vegas-style cocktail show, Hanamistu Spa, shopping at DFS Saipan, and other shops in downtown Garapan, a tour of Saipan, and bottom-fishing. Restaurants are also included in the tour; the Seaside Grill at PIC, Café at the Park, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and a Chamorro sunset dinner are among them. (MVA)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 1, 1999

### MVA OKs \$8,000 for Flame Tree fest

The Marianas Visitors Authority board has approved a grant amounting to \$8,000 for the 18th Flame Tree Festival this coming April and has pledged continued support provided the next celebrations will be held in June. This year's three-day festival will be held in April to welcome the scheduled blooming of the flame trees on the island, said Robert Hunter, executive director of the Arts Council. However, MVA board members believe that the festival which will showcase the culture of the Northern Marianas must be held in June at a time when the flame trees are in full bloom.

### OIA OKs \$40,000 grant for CRM

The Office of Insular Affairs has extended a technical assistance grant to the Northern Marianas under an agreement forged in Washington which was designed to help the island in its efforts to preserve the coral reefs. The grant, signed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and OIA Director Allen P. Stayman in Washington last week, will be awarded to the Coastal Resource Management to boost the agency's program in the protection and preservation of the coral reefs. The technical assistance amounting to \$40,000 will help finance CRM's six-point program that includes implementation of a reef ball placement to create sanctuaries for the coral, installation of sign boards on how to protect the environment at key beach areas, educational campaign to encourage the protection of reefs, and purchase of underwater equipment for its monitoring team.

Mar. 1, 2000

### CPA assures construction of new Tinian airport runway

Construction of the new West Tinian International Airport runway will push through despite suspension of the groundbreaking on two occasions, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas. Mr. Salas was reacting to a letter from CPA Board Secretary Ray M. Cing expressing concern on the continued delay in the construction of the new airport runway. CPA initially informed the Tinian Legislative Delegation that the project will break ground not later than November 1999. The date was later moved to January 2000.

### NMIRF okays \$44.2-M budget for FY2001

The Northern Marianas Retirement Fund board has approved a \$44.2 million budget for fiscal year 2001, the bulk of which will be used to pay pension of its members, according to Administrator Juan S. Torres. NMIRF has allotted \$38.1 million for pension benefits refunds, \$1.2 million for administration and \$2.1 million for professional fees. With Asia showing signs of recovery, the board has already informed the Fund's money managers about plans to invest more money in the region. But implementation of such plan will all depend on when the government will settle its back contribution to the retirement office.

Mar. 1, 2001

### SGMA, NMC tie up to create jobs for locals

The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association is looking to team up with the Northern Marianas College to improve safety conditions within the CNMI garment industry. The organization also expects to create about 30 new jobs for local residents from the partnership. As part of NMC's Community Development Plan, NMC President Joaquin Sablan requested that SGMA, along with a number of other community and business organizations, come up with a list of programs and courses that would serve and support their respective industries. According to Mr. Sablan, the Community Development Plan "will outline NMC's role in improving the overall economy of the CNMI."

### GDCC sees increase in ADA suits

Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council officials predicted yesterday an increase of court cases due to American Disabilities Act violations of employers. The recent US Court ruling on Patricia Garrett's case will open the floodgate of anti-individuals with disabilities cases stemming from employment related to non-compliance of facilities cases. GDCC Executive Director Thomas J. Camacho said the US Supreme Court ruling does not prevent individual suits against state employer for injunctive relief nor does it bar suits initiated by the federal government for money damages. Mr. Camacho admitted the decision was a blow to the rights of people with disabilities and continue trend of chipping away at federal civil rights protections in the name of states rights.



### MEET THE TEAMS

## Team IT&E/Saipan Southern High School

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

*MMAC Committee's note: As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Marianas March Against Cancer, the 2012 MMAC committee would like to honor and recognize the efforts of our teams for their untiring support in the fight against cancer.*

Team IT&E/Saipan Southern High School will be participating anew in the 2012 Marianas March Against Cancer slated for April 27 to 28 at the Hopwood Jr. High School field in Chalan Piao.

Led by team captains Shirley Dotts and Arisa Sakai Peters, Team IT&E/SSHS said they

want to take part in the this year's MMAC "because we care."

IT&E has been involved with the annual event since its inception under Relay for Life while SSHS has been involved for the past three years.

"Who doesn't have a relative, friend and/or coworker who's been touched by cancer?" asked the team.

The team, they said, was formed when former Commonwealth Cancer Association board member Bobbie Grizzard was conducting an outreach activity to raise money for cancer.

"We sent out an email to IT&E employees for volunteers. About three years ago, we partnered with SSHS be-

cause we wanted to help get the schools involved. We knew that schools wanted to participate, too, but paying the fee was difficult for them. We pay their fee and in return we get a bunch of enthusiastic students and instructors helping us out with creative ideas for raising money and the various competitions," the team said.

Team IT&E/SSHS, whose favorite part of the event is the overall camaraderie with their members and volunteers, said they plan to sell food and drinks as well as raffle off great prizes.

They urged others to form their own teams because it's fun and it's for a worthy cause. "Let's do everything we can to

fight cancer!"

All proceeds raised at the MMAC will be spent entirely in the CNMI through cancer awareness programs, patient assistance, and other cancer-related activities.

For more information, contact 285-1828, email [attaoc@yahoo.com](mailto:attaoc@yahoo.com) or visit [www.ccamarianas.org](http://www.ccamarianas.org).

## Power outage along Airport Rd. on Sat.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power outage this Saturday, March 3, 2012, from 8:30am to 11:30am.

Areas affected include the Kiya 1-2nd Partial, which cover Chalan Tun Herman Pan (Torres Refrigeration, Herman's Bakery and laterals south toward Adios sign) and Flame Tree Road/Sineso Ln.

The purpose of the outage is to allow the power distribution crew to replace a rotten primary power pole and perform line clearing on Chalan Tun Herman Pan.

CUC apologizes for any inconvenience this power interruption may have on the community and will continue to work diligently to minimize future interruptions.

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, travelers are asked to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. (CUC)



### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy 16th birthday to Jordan Mesa, who celebrated his special day on Feb. 28! He is shown here with his second period CNMI History class. Greetings come from Ms. Josie Kaipat.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



# Sailboat saved from capsizing in marina

AGAT, Guam—Crewmembers from Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor assisted members of Guam Fire and Rescue in the salvage of a sailing vessel in Agat Marina, Wednesday.

The Coast Guard received a call for assistance from the fire department reporting that the sailing vessel *Makena* was taking on water at the marina pier.

Station Apra Harbor crewmembers responded with dewatering pumps. A Coast Guard reservist noticed the sailing vessel leaning heavily on one side and reported the incident.

Coast Guard crews worked for four hours to dewater the vessel with three pumps, a hand operated bilge pump, and buckets. Water 4 to 5 feet deep filled the bilges through the entire vessel. Crews worked to prevent any environmental impact and collateral damage to the vessel.

“I was proud of the expeditious response by my crew and

very impressed with the collaborative teamwork effort with Guam Fire and Rescue and the local boat owners and captains within Agat Marina,” said Senior Chief Petty Officer Nicholas Pavlik, a boatswain’s mate and officer-in-charge of Station Apra Harbor. “My first concern after arriving on scene was the safety of my crew and those assisting with the dewatering effort, but I knew we had a small window of time to effectively and safely respond to avert the potential for a more serious situation from occurring, had the vessel capsized.”

Mariners are reminded to conduct routine inspections and maintenance of installed dewatering equipment and alarms. Additionally, watertight doors and hatches should remain closed, especially while the vessel is moored, to minimize the spreading of flooding, should it occur. *(USCG)*

## FIRST FRIDAY FILMS

# Climate of Change this Friday

First Friday Films will be featuring *Climate of Change*, an incredible, award-winning documentary shot across four continents. Showtime will be on March 2, 2012, 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center.

Directed by Brian Hill and narrated by Oscar winning actress Tilda Swinton, *Climate of Change* tells several stories of determined everyday global citizens and their efforts to combat human-induced climate change. The film makes a strong case for the role of individuals in saving the planet and a powerful call to act.

First Friday Films is a monthly film series brought to you through a partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality, with generous support from community groups and organizations such as the NMI Council for Humanities that has sponsored this film.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 80 minutes long. As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public.

Find more information about the film at [www.firstfridayfilms-saipan.blogspot.com](http://www.firstfridayfilms-saipan.blogspot.com). Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. *(DEQ)*



## Full Time and Part Time Cook

American Style Restaurant seeking reliable cook with experience to be a part of our team.

Applicants must have experience operating and cooking with Deep Fryer, Oven and Grill.

Applicant must demonstrate knowledge of food preparation, portion control, order expediting and plating.

Special skills such as baking, desserts etc will help us in select the successful candidate

Applicants need to submit Resume’s or applications to Room 312, 3rd Flr. MBP, Susupe or fax to 234-1611

Applications must be submitted by March 7th.

Position available immediately.  
Must be US eligible worker or have current CW-1 Visa



## Position Vacancy Announcement

**Position: Vice President/General Manager (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 10 years experience managing full service 36 hole golf course, experience in developing and marketing and coordinating marketing strategies, knowledge of business management practices of golf course operation and hotel operation, assignment and projects for the golf course, maintain and grow membership and customer by promptly handling member and guest concerns and issues, ensure open communication and high visibility to members and guest by conducting daily walk through of the club, generate revenue by acting as sales manager for the entire golf club and resort, expand sales by initiating and monitoring effectiveness of monthly promotions, demand managements and demand creation strategies.

**Position: Executive Chef (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years experienced and training in culinary cooking and have graduated from a Culinary School, accounts for the management and supervision of kitchen staff and cooks, provides a consistently high quality of food product services to guests and customers, ensure that meals are produced, presented and served to the highest possible standards, monitors materials, supplies and equipment needs, ensure staff uphold and maintain current standards of hygiene and safety, ensure the kitchen maintains a high level of sanitary conditions in a accordance with and all applicable laws, statutes, and policies, communicate with staff in order to facilitate and conduct a team approach, monitor food trend and incorporate new styles and ideas to fulfill customer demands and needs.

**Position: Assistant Chef, Korean Cuisine (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 3 years in the preparation of Korean food, will be involved in Korean menu development, inventory, ordering/purchasing, food cost control, training, personnel management such as coaching, complies to all applicable Sanitation Codes, ensure efficient, safe and sanitary food production, preparation, presentation and knowledgeable of Korean food trends with focus on quality, experience in large catering or banquet functions, excellent communication skills in Korean and basic English to understand and follow recipe, able to communicate on all levels, including management, departmental and customer.

**Position: Chef de Partie (1)**  
**Qualifications:** 7 Years of cooking experience and training, responsible for the creation of high quality dishes, able to work independently, cooks consistently and enthusiastically on a high level, helps create and cook to perfection seasonal and including a five course modern gourmet menu, small selection of signature a la carte dishes, cooks and prepares for each meal service, controls incoming goods and stores food, vegetables, fruits, staple in a perfect conditions, guest oriented and able to converse with the clients, actively attends wine and general trainings, team building events and supplier visits to learn about local product, has fun cooking, is a sociable person, likes to work as a teamwork, and respects and actively works with colleagues.

**Position: Chief Cook (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 5 years of experience and training, knowledge of standards of food preparation, serves, and observes kitchen procedures, experience in kitchen management, train kitchen staff, monitoring and assessing performance of the kitchen staff to make improvements or take corrective action, direct the preparation, seasoning, and cooking of food, determine how food should be presented and create decorative food displays, ensure timely delivery of services, estimate amounts and costs of required supplies, instruct cook and other kitchen staff in the preparation, cooking, garnishing and presentation of food, monitor sanitation practices to ensure that employees follow standards and regulations.

**Position: Cook (6)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 3 years of experience and training, prepares or directs preparation of foods according to prescribed menus and recipes, takes inventory of supplies on hand and orders food supplies, ingredients and other consumables on a schedules basis as determined by menu and estimated number of customers, cleans and sanitizes all food preparation equipment and ensures that it is kept in safe and operable condition, knowledge of methods, materials, and practices of volume food preparation, sanitary methods used in food preparation.

**Position: Assistant Manager, Food & Beverage Department (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of working experience and training, Must have supervisory experienced and training preferably in hotel and resort facilities, have experienced for all food and beverage services including banquet catering, bar/grill, dining restaurant, and outside beverage carts, must have cost control of all food and beverage outlets by helping in overseeing the purchasing of food, maintains effective inventory and shortage controls, work with the Executive Chef to develop an annual food and beverage plan and budget, ensure successful operation of special events, banquets, rentals, coordinates the delivery for all food and beverage service to the customer at the highest guest standard, supervise staff and operational during shift, ensure all of the services provided are immediate need of the customer, maintain and develop a dedicated team providing the highest quality of service and addresses all staffing issues in a fair and timely manner.

**Position: Wait staff (Waiter/Waitress) (5)**  
**Qualifications:** 2 years experience and training, must have preferably worked at a hotel or tourism industry, ability to listen to and understand through spoken words and sentences, ability to arrange things or actions in a certain order or pattern, communicating with Supervisors, peers, or subordinates, handling and moving of objects, judging the qualities of things, services, or people, performing general physical activities, talking to others to convey information effectively, acting listening and service orientated.

**Position: Kitchen Helper (2)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 3 years of working experience, must be familiar with the dynamics of a professional kitchen is a plus, willingness to learn, time and space management skills, physical stamina, a friendly temperament, a desire to help out where needed and the ability to foster the creation and maintenance of a cohesive team, assist cooks, keep kitchen clean, perform a variety of food preparation task, assist with food and beverage service, receive and store supplies, sweeps and mops floors, segregates and removes trash and garbage and places, hoses out garbage container, washes pots, pans, trays by hand, scrapes food from dirty dishes and washes them by hand or place them in racks.

**Position: Assistant Manager, Front Office (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 2 years of experienced and training in the field of hotel and golf resort operation, must be organized, neat and professional appearance, pleasant, tactful and patient, able to communicate well with a wide variety of people, committed to providing good service, enjoyed dealing with people, ability to direct and control the activities of the Front Office, Reservations, deal with customer complaints, knowledge of a second language is a plus (write, read, and speak) computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications, and superior written and oral communications skills, ability to respond properly and take a supervisory role in any hotel emergency or safety situation.

**Position: Korean Concierge (1)**  
**Qualification:** 3 years of experienced and training, must have worked in a hotel or tourism industry, communicate directly with guests, both in person and by telephone, provides information on facilities to Korean speaking guest at the golf & resort, provide information and services in Korean, must be able to offer the Korean guest in any number of special circumstances, good communication skills in Korean language is vitally important, provides all the information that the guest needs to enjoy their stay, good problem solving skills, good organizational skills, must be trained and experienced in tourism or hospitality managements, excellent customer service skills.

**Position: Supervisor, Japan Sales & Marketing (2)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 2 years experienced and training in marketing strategy for the Japanese market, must be fluent in the Japanese language as well as to read and write, experienced contacting and selling to Corporate level executives, experienced in Sales and Marketing must especially in the Japan markets, built and managed a network of marketing and selling Hotel and Golf product

and services, possess innovative business promotional and advertising activities, strong negotiating skills, knowledgeable of the Japanese customers needs, have strong demonstrations skills, must work with management team to create sales and marketing plans that includes to identify and target Japan Markets, identify potential Japanese clients.

**Position: Supervisor Pro Shop (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 3 years of supervisory experienced and training, able to lead, direct and motivate the sales team in order to achieve sales objectives, identifies appropriate business targets, provides a professional and excellent level of customer service with existing and new customers, supervises scheduled shift, completes all assigned duties, supervises sale associates, ensure that all employees adhere to company policies and procedures, knowledge of principles, techniques, and objectives of marketing, manages a sales program, knowledge of hotel management and philosophy.

**Position: Sales Representative, Pro shop (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of training and experienced in the field of golf operation, must maintain outstanding customer service, generating sales, merchandising, must be fully competent in selling, knowledgeable of cashing and receipt processing, knows how to operate a computerized point of sale cash receipts, inventory management system, ensure that each customer receives, ability to work varied hours/days, including nights, weekends and holidays as needed, must recognize security risks and thefts and know how to handle or prevent such situations.

**Position: Front Desk Supervisor (2)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 3 years of hospitality work, must have total understanding of all hotel front office procedures, know standard of cash handling, knowledge of computerized cash register systems, reservation system, must have experience in dealing directly with the public and acquired general knowledge of basic customer service skills, experienced and trained in the field of Front Office Operation, assist the Front Office Staff in handling customers in an efficient, gracious and professional manner and maintains a friendly, cheerful and courteous demeanor at all times.

**Position: Front Desk Clerk (2)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have at least 2 year experienced and training in hotel hospitality or tourism industry, must have good communication skills, professional attitude and organization, enjoy working with people, experienced in customer services, sales, ability to use a computer, handles cash, experienced in administrative skills, ensure guests billing is correct, must assist in general maintenance and inventory of Front Office supplies, be courteous and efficient with customers.

**Position: Front Desk Clerk, China/Korea Market (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Assist the front desk clerks in handling Korean and Chinese guests in an efficient, gracious and professional manner, responsible for the management, organization of the Front Office and related functions pertaining to the Korean and Chinese guests, respond and display a high degree of professionalism and integrity as well to a wide variety of people, enjoys dealing with people, computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications and superior Korean/Chinese written, and oral communication skills.

**Position: Executive Housekeeping (1)**  
**Qualifications:** 7 years experience and training is required, must have worked preferably at a hotel, responsible for the smooth, efficient, cost effective operation of the Housekeeping Department, inventory control, works closely with Front Desk Assistant Manager to resolve all room discrepancies, possesses good knowledge of all matters relating to the proper administration of the Housekeeping department, provides employee safety training to prevent accidents, maintains quality standards through inspection programs, follows and ensures compliance to all hotel control procedures by staff.

**Position: Housekeeping (2)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 2 years of experience and training cleaning hotel rooms, ensure clean, orderly attractive rooms in hotels, and must have training cleaning golf facilities, prepare a list of prospective check-outs, investigates complaints regarding housekeeping service and equipment, takes corrective action, operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials, conducts inventories to ensure adequate supplies, observe precautions required to protect hotel guests' property, and report theft or found articles to supervisors.

**Position: Chief Accountant (1)**  
**Qualifications:** must have bachelor's degree in public or business administration, accounting, finance or related field, supplemented by 5 years progressively responsible experience in business accounting, ability to understand, follow and confer written and oral instructions, ability to effectively supervise a staff comprised of entry and journey level professionals engaged in carrying out departmental functions, extensive knowledge of generally accepted standard accounting principles, established procedures, departmental guidelines and regulatory requirements.

**Position: Accountant I (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of experienced and training, and a college graduate in the field of accounting or related field, maintain general ledger accounting system, analyze accounts and prepare account adjustment as needed, assist with fixed asset and inventory systems and record-keeping, perform a variety of complex, professional level accounting functions, maintain confidentiality of payroll and other related records, ability to prepare clear, concise and comprehensive financial, statistical and narrative reports, and perform complex financial, statistical, budgetary cost analysis and ability to perform complex accounting duties related to assigned activities.

**Position: Accountant (1)**  
**Qualifications:** 5 years work experience and knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles and procedures and budgetary principles, considerate knowledge of computers and their application in financial and accounting system, ability to prepare clear financial statement, establish tables of accounts and assign entries to proper accounts, use professional judgment, ability to plan, organize and meet rigid schedules and demanding timelines and seasonal workloads.

**Position: Information Technology Technician (1)**  
**Qualification:** Must have 5 years of experienced and training and a college graduate in Computer science, responsible for installing, maintaining computer hardware, software, networks, have proficient knowledge in computer hardware and software systems and programs, computer networks, network administration and network installations, computer troubleshooting, team building skills, analytical and problem solving skills, decision making skills, effective verbal, presentation and listening communication skills, effective written communication skills, computer skills including the ability to operate graphics and website development programs at a highly proficient level, good time manage.

**Position: Information Technology Assistant (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 2 years of experience and training and must be a college graduate of computer applications and operating systems, PC hardware and trouble shooting, repair procedures, principles and practices of computer and telephone support services, computer hardware and software applications, familiar with information technology policies and procedures, computer operations processing and procedures, communicate clearly and easily with user and vendors of varying levels of technical expertise.

**Position: Project Engineer/Facility Maintenance Manager (1)**  
**Qualifications:** 10 years of experienced and training, college graduate, is responsible to ensure that all LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort facilities are maintained in the highest of standards in their operation, assists in implementation and coordination of maintenance, repair, renovations of Company owned and leased facilities, monitors contractors compliance to standards for various Company buildings, conducts initial review and evaluates bids for compliance with specifications, report building maintenance needs, respond appropriately to emergencies or urgent issues as they arise, manage and supervise and coordinates the work of the staff and the work of contractors, communicate clearly and concisely, maintain adequate inventory, preventive maintenance and repairs of equipment.

**Position: Supervisor, Electrician (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Have 7 years of training and experienced, and a college graduate, must have electrical trade qualifications, complies and adheres to the Occupational Safety and Health and Standards and practices, excellent communication and team building skills, must have computer systems skills, perform electrical work as required within their capabilities, maintaining a high standard of workmanship and abide by local statutes, performs skilled electrical installations, undertake modifications to plan & equipment repair electronic components of electrical equipment as required for continued operation, attend to production machinery breakdowns as required.

**Position: Mechanic Engineer (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of training and experienced, must have graduate degree, is responsible for all mechanical installations maintenance programs, stress analysis, piping, process plants layout and mechanical building services, responsible in power plant engines and generations, evaluates equipment performance and operating conditions, proficient in the planning and control of work in a multi project, deadline driven environment, deep and thorough understanding of applicable regulatory requirements and industry practices, assumes accountability for the quality of mechanical engineering work.

**Position: HVAC Technician (1)**  
**Qualifications:** 7 years of experience and training, must have specialized knowledge to analyze and solve complex problems, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, strong physical exertion, responsibility for cost control, sustained high degree of attention required to prevent damage or waste, repair replace needs necessary to maintain equipment and systems, install heating, air conditioning, refrigeration systems and related equipment for the propose of providing comfort inside facilities, maintains tools.

**Position: Building Maintenance (2)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 3 years of working experience and training, must have standard maintenance skills and the ability to apply that knowledge safely in a structured environment, skill in operating maintenance and carpentry tools and equipments, activities and decisions, requires independent actions, judgment in solving common problems, must have tolerance for exposure to unpleasant elements, be able to positively interact with fellow workers, maintains and repairs a variety of building facilities and provides service for common mechanical, electrical, and building system devices.

**Position: Assistant Manager, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of experience and training in golf industry, Must be able to communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, inspect golf equipment, structures, or materials, work with the public, assist others, monitor events, coordinates the work and activities of others, develop and build teamwork, knowledge of a second language is a plus, knowledge of the golf sport and rules is a must, generally work a flex schedule, often deal with unpleasant, angry or discourteous customers, work in a group or as part of a team, provide directions to customers, make sure that the customers follow golf etiquette and rules.

**Position: Supervisor, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years experienced and training and working in a golf industry, must keep things running smoothly, provide information about and the services the Company provides, keep equipment in working order, explain how to use equipment safely, provide information about rules, record details of attendance, reservations, make sure that people follow rules, communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, must be pleasant, neat in appearance, must be punctual and reliable, ability to work well with the public is very important, knowledge of the golf sport, responsible for work outcomes and results of other attendants.

**Position: Operations/Marshall (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have training and experience in the field of golf industry, must knowledge of the rules of the golf game is a must, ensures that an adequate pace of play is maintained, makes the golf game more enjoyable for everyone, enforces rules and regulations and control golf play on the golf course, enforces etiquette related to golf course usage, golf playing equipment and its recommended use, perform duties with significant independence, establish and maintain cooperative relationships with those in the course of the work.

**Position: Supervisor, Landscape (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 7 years of experienced and training in the field of a golf course industry, must oversees the landscaping activities and supervises all landscaping personnel, work required judgment and initiative, planning, scheduling, organizing and directing work, training personnel, teaches and enforces safety regulations, monitors jobs both indoors and outdoors to ensure quality and compliance with job standards, performs duties of a landscaper, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, considerable external and or internal contacts to carry out responsibilities.

**Position: Supervisor, Greens keeper (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 7 years of training and experienced, must have worked preferably at a hotel and golf industry, establishes and maintain and repair programs for the golf course and the hotel, evaluates and determines the need for and scope of emergency repairs and supervises staff and contractors in performing work, establishes procedures governing employee and customer's safety, perform grounds maintenance, perform preventive maintenance to the equipment, applies insecticides, herbicides and fertilizers maintains and operate irrigation system, experienced and knowledgeable in tractor operation and moving.

**Position: Greens keeper (14)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, knowledge of methods and materials used in grounds and landscaped area knowledge of and ability to use hand and power tools and equipment, ability to operate trucks, light motorized equipment, physical strength, stamina and agility, assists in the construction of new greens, tees, and fairways, lays sod, and seeds tees, greens and fairways.

**Position: Nursery Workers (4)**  
**Qualifications:** Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, performs routine maintenance on equipment, move containerized shrubs, plants, greens, using wheelbarrows, carts, shovel or tractors, maintain grounds and landscaping, haul and spread topsoil, fertilizer, peat moss and other materials to condition soil, requires to be reliable, responsible, and dependable, pleasant to work with, displays good natured and cooperative attitude.

**Position: Machinist (1)**  
**Qualifications:** 5 years of experience and training, must have overall knowledge working with machines, of machines, knowledge of a machine structure, performs routine maintenance on equipment, determine when and what kind of maintenance is needed, requires physical activities and considerable use of the arms, legs and moving your whole body.

**Position: Fabricator & Assembler (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 10 years of training and experience, must be able to fabricates, assembles, installs, and repairs sheet metal products and equipment on the basis of knowledge of system operation, may work with aluminum, galvanized steel, stainless steel, or other sheet metal stock, frequent to constant standing, walking throughout shift on all types of surfaces, maintains a safe work environment must be able to plan, organize, must be able to read and understand technical information, manuals, material safety data sheets, work order.

**Position: Heavy Equipment Machinist (1)**  
**Qualifications:** Must have 5 years of training and experience, performs skilled tasks in the mechanical repair and maintenance of heavy trucks, earth moving, and related construction equipment including road graders, knowledge of hazards and safety precautions of the trade, operation and maintenance requirements of heavy duty construction equipment, work cooperatively with other employees, work safely without presenting a direct threat to self or others, performs incidental welding operations on equipment.

**Position: Golf Cart Mechanic (2)**  
**Qualification:** high school diploma, 3 years technical training or experienced in mechanical, dismantle engines, using hand tools and examine parts for defects, test and inspect engines to determine malfunctions, to locate missing and broken parts, perform routine maintenance such as cleaning and oiling parts, honing cylinders and tuning ignition system, ability to demonstrate good judgment when dealing with guests or other personnel, able to lift/carry supplies or equipment with frequent reaching, stooping, bending, and kneeling, extensive walking and standing.

Drop off your resume at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort at the Front Office, Kagman Road.

May submit resume online at: [mada@laolabay.com](http://mada@laolabay.com)

WE ACCEPT APPLICATIONS UP TO FEBRUARY 24, 2012.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

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# Opinion

Hafa Adali

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXII, Issue No. 51Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Onward online privacy

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times on Friday, Feb. 24:

Responding to a steady drumbeat of privacy violations online, the White House proposed a privacy bill of rights for Internet users Thursday that could give them more say over how personal information is collected and used. The initiative is a good starting point, as is a new effort by California Attorney General Kamala Harris to require companies developing applications for smartphones and tablet computers to disclose their privacy policies. But they also highlight how tricky it is to set rules that guard sensitive personal information without hindering innovation or quickly becoming obsolete.

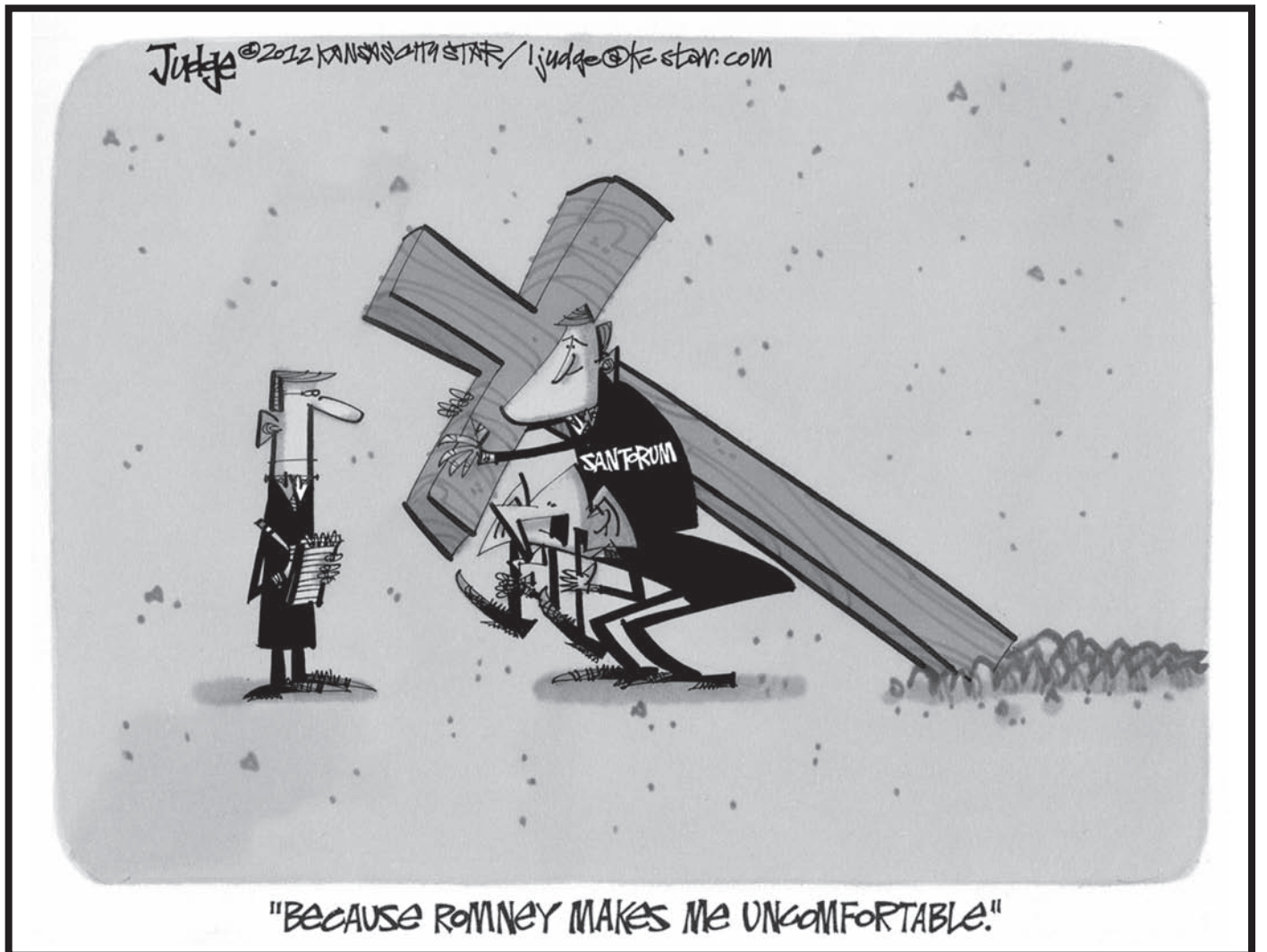
The “Consumer Privacy Bill of Rights” offers a sensible set of principles for online privacy, calling on Web companies to minimize their collection of personal data, help users make informed choices about the information they reveal, and not use personal data for new purposes without the user’s consent. The point is to set privacy standards without telling companies how to meet them. That flexibility is indispensable, considering how rapidly technology is changing online.

One challenge is how to enforce those principles. The White House wants to put them into law, and that’s a good idea—provided that lawmakers resist the urge to require or ban specific technologies. Until then, the administration plans to work with industry groups and other interested parties on an optional code of conduct that will be legally enforceable. Why any Web company’s legal advisers would allow it to agree to such a code is a mystery, especially if there’s no guarantee that its competitors or disruptive new entrants will.

Nor will the principles stop privacy abuses online. Consider the first fruit of the initiative: an agreement by a coalition of major Web companies to give Web users a “do not track” button in browsers to block some advertisers from following their movements online. Although the button could make it harder for ad networks to personalize the ads people see online, it won’t stop a company from assembling and selling revealing portraits of its users based on the things they see and say on all the sites run by that company. The company would simply have to disclose what it’s doing.

Ultimately, however, a disclosure-based approach may strike the best balance. Federal law already provides safeguards for sensitive personal information, such as health and credit data. The Federal Trade Commission and California prosecutors have the power to crack down on companies that make misleading statements about their privacy policies. And pressure from users has forced companies such as Facebook and Google to be more protective of other types of personal information they collect. Like Harris’ move, the White House initiative will not only give consumers a bit more control over their information, but also shine more light on what companies are doing with it so users can make better choices.

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## Leaping on the Leap Day of the Leap Year

“Ten lords a-leaping” is the familiar line from the 12 days of Christmas children’s song, to some, “10” symbolizing the Ten Commandments. Others with a more secular bent, as the French song’s origin seem to support, the lords may just be leaping over the prospect of their lady’s petticoat captured on Epiphany, given that the children’s song first found print in *Mirth without Mischief*.

Hardly the kind of thoughts one might be hoarding at the onset of Lent. But then, there ain’t no more petticoats around, so that’s academic. Still, the leaping in Arizona and Michigan on Leap Day this Leap Year has nothing to do with thoughts over Christmas, though mirth and mischief seem to have prevailed.

Mitt Romney’s candidacy did get a boost over his lead versus Rick Santorum in the primaries, but not too much. Santorum got a boost in Michigan from Democrats who mischievously went out to vote for Santorum on the assumption that the former Pennsylvania senator would be a better patsy to handle come November.

There is not much leaping from the White House one way or the other though it is true that a Santorum-leading ticket would polarize the Republicans to the religious right. The senator’s singular issue of homophobia and anti-abortion plays to a limited audience. Newt Gingrich would be a Democrat’s dream Republican candidate, but that would invite too much leaping we can’t afford with the tenuous tectonic plates already loosened up by the extra liquid from climate change!

Islamic Malaysia is leaping on its concert toes as a group of Muslims got ruffled by a promo photo of Dallas-born Erykah Badu with the word “Allah” tattooed on her shoulders, resulting in the abrupt cancellation of her stage appearance until feathers are unruffled, if that is possible at all.

Feathers are ruffled in Kashgar, the cultural center of the Uighurs in Xinjiang province, better known for last year’s Urumqi unrest as the majority Uighurs reclaim their power from the perceived carpet-bagging dominant Hans of China. From the western gate of the ancient Silk Road, Kashgar’s Uighurs are Turkic, among the many residing in oases cities ringed the Taklimakan Desert in Xinjiang Province. Nestorian Christians using Syriac writing before converting to Islam and the Arabic Koran, they nevertheless retain Cyrillic among its functioning letters.

Street riots exploded in Kashgar this week killing at least 10, timed serendipitously while the United Nations condemns Syria, after its representative walks out of the Human Rights Commission’s meeting, and Syria attempts to convince the world that its hastily approved constitution in a recent referendum, the first in 50 years of authoritarian rule, legitimately retains President Assad at the nation’s helm and approved another 14 years of his rule if he gets re-elected. Many members of the international community led by the United States and Europe immediately characterized both the

By JAIME VERGARA  
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



referendum and the constitution as a “farce.”

A lot of turbaned leaping in the desert this week, south of the Tian Shan, the heavenly heights shared by Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. “Ten lords a-leaping” would be more like ten thousand Mujahedeens!

Our mild leaping today is more over puddles as last week’s freak snowstorm melts under the sun. We do relish the rare experience of a campus still shrouded in silence even as neighboring Normal Teachers and Liaoning Universities welcome their returning students. Our students are not slated to come back until tomorrow so our fancy footwork over the puddles in the deserted university avenues is nothing but sheer quiet delight.

Not so with the folks over at CHC where their head honchos are elbowing it with their counterpart in California while the hired medical help struggle with their own internal issues of support and service against a seemingly opportunistic CNMI Legislature and an acquiescing administrative staff. We will leap one for the two MDs braving it before the Senate on Capital Hill, along with the news that Al Santos will be handling CHC’s financial books henceforth!

So, what has this got to do with leap day on leap year? A lot of leaping friggin’ chefs in UK, if I know. But the additional day in February has been known to hold crazy decisions and unusual occurrences where the ordinary rules are suspended and anything goes. Almost like the traditional sense of the *fiesta*. With our getting more dependent on the feds rather than our local means, a crazy day may just be what the CHC MD ordered! Since Liberation month is forthcoming, we might start liberating ourselves from many of the pieces of luggage that tie us to our illusions.

Where do we begin? First, the obvious. Casino is not the messiah. Besides, it is not coming. So forget that one and move on. See, it is easy. Second, Governor Fitial and his ilk are not the problem, nor are perceived deficiencies of the past, the constraint and contradiction. We are the ones we have been waiting for! Until we decide to be the solution, there won’t be any. *This is the day we have. We can dance this day, or whine it away. This is the day we have!*

It’s a Leap Year. Take a leap of faith in ourselves. We might just find the answer we have been waiting for.



# Seven steps to make each customer's Life Transition their best

In my last article I discussed the importance of working with trusted professionals who have built a strong relationship with prospects that you would most likely serve in the future. They are centers of influence that complement your business rather than compete with your business.

This week finishes the Life Transitions chapter that will be published this summer in collaboration with Brian Tracy and other authors. I hope you realize the power behind this concept and what it can do for your business. Here are seven things you can do to start harnessing the power of Life Transitions for your business and become an important part of your customers' lives.

First, identify the specific Life Transitions your current customers may be experiencing. If it's not obvious, ask them questions to learn more about their situation and what motivates them to seek your products, and how does it benefit them. If you discover more than one Life Transition, prioritize them and examine the effectiveness of your current marketing strategy to attract individuals in the various transition points. For example, if you own a furniture store, you might identify these prior transition points: Moving to the area, buying a new home, birth of a child, etc.

Second, examine the Life Transitions that precede the one that motivates your customers to come to your business. Draw a timeline and label the specific transition points in relation to the one you primarily service. You may notice that some points are directly connected and occur shortly prior to the Life Transition that motivates your customers to come to you, or they may be at the same transition point and much earlier in the process. Other transition points will occur over a longer period of time on average. If the primary Life Transition that motivates people to buy from a furniture store is people moving into the area, then they will have also bought or rented a house recently.

Third, list the business categories and specific businesses that

serve each of the Life Transitions identified in the second step. Using the example of a new home rental or purchase from the second step, you could list realtors, apartment complexes, and property management companies as the business categories. Once you've identified the categories, look through your local directory to list specific businesses serving each category.

Forth, identify what's in it for them to work with your business. This will vary for each type of business and each business owner. Some professions do not allow a financial reward, while it may be the standard practice for others. Some may be more than happy to refer their customers to you once they feel you will deal with their customers professionally and provide outstanding service. In other words, you must sell yourself to the business owner, and then discuss how the relationship can be mutually beneficial.

Fifth, contact the business owners or managers to discuss your proposal to work together. This can be an informal visit over the phone or in person that is concluded with a handshake, or it could involve a letter of agreement to formally establish the relationship and expectations of each other. Make it convenient to refer your business by providing business cards, brochures, and other materials that will make it easy to recommend your business.

Sixth, follow-up frequently and keep the relationship active. Just like any other relationship, you must continue to make contact and communicate the results of the individuals or companies referred to your business. You are building an ongoing relationship to develop greater trust and benefit among everyone involved.

Seventh, analyze the Life Transitions your customers experience during or after you have served them. You want to do this for several reasons:

By fully understanding and empathizing with what your customers are experiencing, you can provide better service to them and also

By **RIK VILLEGAS**

*Special to the Tribune*

*Rik owns an ActionCoach franchise and assists business owners to develop consistently profitable businesses that can operate without them. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.*



refer them to other highly-qualified businesses that will take care of their additional needs.

You could earn some form of a reward if the customer makes a purchase based on your referral. Again, this will depend on the type of business and the laws that regulate compensation.

You may expand the products or services you provide to better satisfy that specific Life Transition and earn additional income. Using the furniture store example, you may discover that new parents are buying rockers, but many of them are complaining about the lack of quality cribs and other related furniture, so you could expand your product line to include baby furniture.

Your ability to work with complementary businesses in the same or different Life Transitions will improve as you continue to build a strong network where each business benefits. Over time, you'll receive more qualified referrals, your marketing will be much more effective, and your profits will increase.

The 30,000-foot perspective offers a greater view for your business to serve your customers better by being there before they need you. It will also allow you to gain a competitive edge by positioning your business as the best and only choice for a successful transition, even in a crowded Life Transition intersection.

## Feeling blue? Take two books, call in the a.m.

Introducing BiblioCure: The Science of Finding the Book for What Ails You.

As an internationally recognized expert on absolutely everything, I'd like to introduce the Brand-New Infallible Science of Bibliocology, otherwise known as the Cure of Corrective Reading.

With more than 3,245 years of experience in various forms of higher education (or what feels like it, anyway), I can show you how to mend your professional fences and patch up those broken hearts. This program can also help you lose weight and tone because you'll be dragging books everywhere. It's perfect.

Besides, you've already tried everything else, right?

Let's get started.

1. Need a revenge tale to warm and restart your cold, cold heart? Want a blend of familiar domesticity and perfectly diabolical femme fatale? Grab something by Margaret Atwood, Fay Weldon, Anne-Marie MacDonald, Valerie Martin or Edna O'Brien.

2. Have a big occasion coming up—starting an affair, ending an engagement, planning funeral—and can't think of what to say? Get yourself a couple of huge and cozy books of quotations to keep at hand. Get the best lines as chosen by the wisest readers. For starters, check out cures such as "The Yale Book of Quotations" and "The Beacon Book of Quotations by Women" (although it'll make you bitter to notice that the latter is out of print—but lots of used copies are available).

3. Fed up with school and studying, or know anybody who is? Track down a copy of the wildly absurd and brilliant British classic "1066 And All That" and then supplement it with the too-funny-for-words parody, "Dave Barry Slept Here: A Sort of History of The United States."

4. Need a quick fix every morning to remind you why politics, feminism, and really, really good shoes matter? Give yourself the pleasure of looking through "The Sylvia Chronicles: 30 Years of Graphic Misbehavior from Reagan to Obama" by Nicole Hollander.

5. Worried that you're becoming too cynical? Re-read the "Princess Bride" by William Goldman. I'll bet you two American dollars that you'll cry.

6. Worried that you're becoming too sentimental? Find an old copy of Philip Wylie's 1942 volume "Generation of Vipers." You'll become bitter immediately and Mad Men will never look the same.

7. Want to renew your faith in life? Want a book for a young person who has just fallen in love, out of love? Want a book for a friend whose mother, father, sibling or good friend has just passed away? Give that person a copy of "The Little Prince" by Antoine de Saint-Exupery.

8. Need some courage to confront challenges at work? Nothing helps like Machiavelli's "The Prince." Not to be confused with Saint-Exupery's tale, Machiavelli's classic is a do-it-your-

By **GINA BARRECA**

*The Hartford Courant*

*Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. She can be reached through her website at <http://www.ginabarreca.com>.*



self handbook on power.

9. Best books on writing? Ones by Betsy Lerner, Jay Heinrichs, Stephen King, Atwood (yes, again).

10. Books that remind you why it's worth it to get up the next day, if only to find out what happens next in the plot: Get yourself a mixture of works by Hilary Mantel, E.B. White, A.S. Byatt, Wally Lamb, Muriel Spark, Shirley Jackson, Andre Dubus III, Erma Bombeck, Jean Kerr and John O'Hara. Forget burning sage, reciting incantations or lighting incense: Scatter these in every room and you'll have great biblio-karma.

The only side effects of the BiblioCure are an increased sense of comfort, self-satisfaction, focus and understanding. And BiblioCures will last—just as long as you remember your favorite lines.

## Letter to the Editor

### Act now to save your retirement contributions

Dear active employees of the defined benefit retirement plan: If you are like my wife and myself, you pay a good portion of our paycheck every two weeks to the Fund. According to the experts, the Fund has about 3-4 years left until bankruptcy.

What this means: Unless you are on the verge of retirement, you are about to lose your money.

If you are under 15 years in the system, you can get it. To withdraw your money, the Retirement Fund regulations currently state that you must quit for six months in order to be hired again.

Why six months? It is our money, so why do we have to lose our jobs in order to get it?

Maybe they haven't thought this thing out. You see, it is better for the current retirees to let us take our money out—if they allow us to take it out, they don't have to budget for our retirement later. Plus, if you are like me, this money is our only retirement savings. That's right—we have no social security like others in the States.

One hope: Congressman Eli Cabrera introduced a bill in the House to allow us to take our money without having to quit our jobs. He saw the math that the auditors did on reducing liability, he knew it was a good idea: strengthen the current lifespan of the Fund for those currently retired by allowing active employees to

leave the system.

The House passed the bill and then it went to the Senate. The Senate made several revisions to the bill. It went back to the House, where the bill was killed.

Things are now moving very slowly. The clerk at the House told me that now each house appoints a "conference committee" of four persons to meet and work out a compromise. Any time limit? No. To date, nearly two months after the bill was introduced, no sign of the first conference meeting.

I don't know about you, but I am getting the feeling that for some people, it is easier *not to act* than to do something. Not acting is a double insult to the active employees and the retirees.

Act now to save your money. Just a couple emails or phone calls urging your representatives to roll over your money before they meet to decide. **See sidebar.**

You can email conference committee members below. Even easier, go to their website, click on House and Senate then Members and click their names to send an email at: <http://www.cnmileg.gov/mp/>.

**Mark Staal**

*As Matuis, Saipan*

## Conference Committee Reps:

### HOUSE

Felicidad Ogumoru/[rep.ogumorof@cnmi.leg.gov.mp](mailto:rep.ogumorof@cnmi.leg.gov.mp)  
George Camacho/[rep.camachog@cnmi.leg.gov.mp](mailto:rep.camachog@cnmi.leg.gov.mp)  
Terisita Santos/[rep.santost@cnmi.leg.gov.mp](mailto:rep.santost@cnmi.leg.gov.mp)

### SENATE

Jovita Taimanao/[sen.taimanao@cnmi.leg.gov.mp](mailto:sen.taimanao@cnmi.leg.gov.mp)  
Ralph Torres/[senatorrtorres@gmail.com](mailto:senatorrtorres@gmail.com)  
Jude Hofschneider/[senatorjuhofscheider@yahoo.com](mailto:senatorjuhofscheider@yahoo.com)

### SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Congressman\_\_\_\_Senator\_\_\_\_\_,  
Please support Congressman Eli Cabrera's bill allowing us to withdraw our money without having to quit our jobs for six months. Many of us have been paying into the Fund for years and have no other source of future retirement income (including Social Security), should the Fund collapse as is currently predicted. Making six months the rule is discriminatory and unfair. It penalizes those who cannot afford to go without income that long; it also jeopardizes programs that rely on seasoned employees. The bill is a "win-win" for retirees and active employees as retirees will greatly lessen the overall liability and we will get our hard earned money. Thank you for your action,






Sincerely,



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼77
Chuuk	Shower	▲87 ▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85 ▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲85 ▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼79

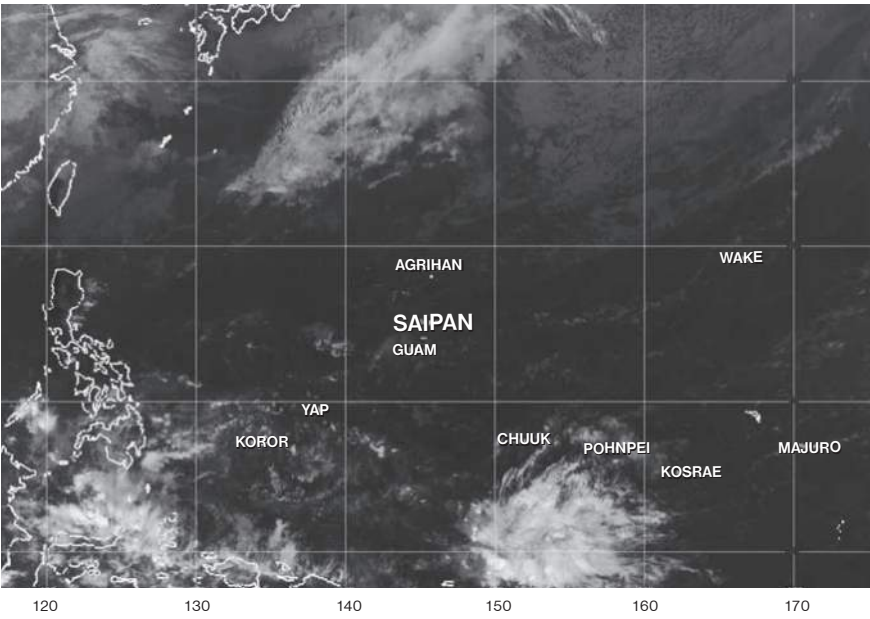
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲67 ▼65
Beijing	Snow	▲44 ▼26
Hong Kong	Showers	▲70 ▼64
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼70
London	Cloudy	▲52 ▼45
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲63 ▼45
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲89 ▼79
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲75 ▼59
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼70
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲48 ▼36
Osaka	Showers	▲52 ▼43
Paris	Showers	▲57 ▼45
Pusan	Showers	▲50 ▼40
Rome	Sunny	▲69 ▼46
Salem	Ice	▲46 ▼35
San Francisco	Showers	▲54 ▼44
Seoul	Showers	▲47 ▼30
Tokyo	Showers	▲54 ▼43
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼43

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
2:11 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet	
6:50 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	
12:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet	
8:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergence ahead of a cold front is producing cloudiness and areas of light rain north of a line from 22N130E to 24N138E to north of 25N at 139E. This is west and northwest of Iwo To island. A shear line northwest of Wake Island extends from 25N168E to 19N160E to near 18N154E. Scattered light showers are found along and northwest of this boundary to beyond 25N. A trade-wind disturbance is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk and Pohnpei between the equator and 5N from 149E to 160E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Monday	6:32 AM	6:26 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:53 AM	12:20 AM
Friday	12:44 PM	1:10 AM
Saturday	1:36 PM	2:00 AM
Sunday	2:30 PM	2:49 AM
Monday	3:26 PM	3:37 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

#### PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

##### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com) or [jayvee\\_vallejera@saipantribune.com](mailto:jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com).
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

#### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)</b> C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)</b> C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:20am+1 2, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7 DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6 DL580 10:10pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ704/603 11:40pm 2:20pm Daily via ICN C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## Plant chief: Fukushima nuke plant still vulnerable

**OKUMA, Japan** (AP)—Japan's tsunami-hit Fukushima power plant remains fragile nearly a year after it suffered multiple meltdowns, its chief said Tuesday, with makeshift equipment—some mended with tape—keeping crucial systems running.

An independent report, meanwhile, revealed that the government downplayed the full danger in the days after the March 11 disaster and secretly considered evacuating Tokyo.

Journalists given a tour of

the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant on Tuesday, including a reporter from The Associated Press, saw crumpled trucks and equipment still lying on the ground. A power pylon that collapsed in the tsunami, cutting electricity to the plant's vital cooling system and setting off the crisis, remained a mangled mess.

Officials said the worst is over but the plant remains vulnerable.

"I have to admit that it's still rather fragile," said plant chief

Takeshi Takahashi, who took the job in December after his predecessor resigned due to health reasons. "Even though the plant has achieved what we call 'cold shutdown conditions,' it still causes problems that must be improved."

The government announced in December that three melted reactors at the plant had basically stabilized and that radiation releases had dropped. It still will take decades to fully decommission the plant, and it must be kept stable until then.

The operators have installed multiple backup power supplies, a cooling system and equipment to process massive amounts of contaminated water that leaked from the damaged reactors.

But the equipment that serves as the lifeline of the cooling system is shockingly feeble-looking. Plastic hoses cracked by freezing temperatures have been mended with tape. A set of three pumps sits

on the back of a pickup truck.

Along with the pumps, the plant now has 1,000 tanks to store more than 160,000 tons of contaminated water.

Radiation levels in the Unit 1 reactor have fallen, allowing workers to repair some damage to the reactor building. But the Unit 3 reactor, whose roof was blown off by a hydrogen explosion, resembles an ashtray filled with a heap of cigarette butts.

A dosimeter recorded the highest radiation reading outside Unit 3 during Tuesday's —1.5 millisieverts per hour. That is a major improvement from last year, when up to 10 sieverts per hour were registered near Units 1 and 2.

Exposure to more than 1,000 millisieverts, or 1 sievert, can cause radiation sickness including nausea and an elevated risk of cancer.

## Dow closes above 13,000, first time since crisis

By **DANIEL WAGNER**  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

The Dow Jones industrial average rode a surge of confidence in the economy Tuesday to close above 13,000, a threshold it last crossed four months before the financial crisis of 2008 and the darkest days of the Great Recession.

The milestone extended a strong rally in stocks since the start of the year, and it came after a fitful week in which the Dow repeatedly floated above 13,000 only to fall back by the end of the trading day.

The Dow closed at 13,005.12, a close enough call that the gain of a single stock, Johnson & Johnson, made the difference. The Dow last closed above 13,000 in May 2008, four months before the fall of the Lehman Brothers investment bank and the worst of the crisis.

"I think it's a momentous day for investor confidence," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank. "What this number implies is that the financial crisis that we were all losing sleep over, it never happened, because now we're back."

Dow 13,000 comes at a time when Americans are feeling better about the economy than they have in a year. The Conference Board, a private research group, said its consumer confidence jumped to 70.8 in February, up from 61.5 in January.

The report came out at 10 a.m. and lifted the Dow above 13,000. It stayed there most of the day.

"Two months ago, we were talking about a double-dip recession. Now consumer confidence is growing," said Ryan Detrick, senior technical strate-

gist for Schaffer's Investment Research.

He said the Dow's milestone "wakes up a lot of investors who have missed a lot of this rally."

The average first pierced 13,000 last Tuesday but fell back by the close. It floated above the milestone again on Friday and Monday, but slipped below both days. A strong rally for stocks this year seemed stalled as worry built on Wall Street about climbing prices for oil and gasoline.

Tuesday's gain puts the Dow 1,160 points below its all-time high, set Oct. 9, 2007. The Great Recession began two months later.

The milestone could draw some fence-sitting investors back into the market and add to the gains, said Brian Gendreau, market strategist at Cetera Financial Group.



A radiation monitor indicates 131.00 mSv per hour near Unit 3 and 4 reactor buildings at Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s tsunami-crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power station in Okuma, Fukushima prefecture, northeastern Japan, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012.

## Americans feeling better about economic recovery

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Americans are feeling better about the economy again, but will it last this time?

A widely watched barometer of consumer confidence surged in February to its highest level in a year as Americans took note of improving job prospects among friends and family and falling unemployment, which is now at a three-year low.

The brighter assessment released Tuesday by a private research group reflected a more upbeat attitude for the nation generally as the economy picks up. That is a boon for President Obama as he seeks re-election. Polls, including a recent Associated Press-GfK survey, show the Democratic incumbent is beginning to benefit politically from improved views of the economy.

"The economy is getting momentum. Clearly, shoppers are more optimistic about their job prospects," said Amna Asaf,

economist at Capital Economics.

The rising confidence among consumers gave confidence to Wall Street, too, helping it to reclaim the last of the ground it held before plunging into the depths of the Great Recession. The Dow Jones industrial average closed above 13,000 on Tuesday for the first time since May 19, 2008, four months before the fall of Lehman Brothers investment bank and the worst of the financial crisis.

Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank, called it "a momentous day for investor confidence."

Tuesday's gain puts the Dow 1,160 points below its all-time high, set Oct. 9, 2007. The Great Recession began two months later.

The milestone could draw some fence-sitting investors back into the market and add to the gains, said Brian Gendreau, market strategist at Cetera Financial Group.

But consumer confidence is still below the level of a healthy economy, and trouble could lie ahead. Rising gas prices could sully shoppers' mood and derail the economic recovery. There are also fears about a nuclear showdown with Iran and the festering European debt crisis. Those worries could hurt demand for U.S. imports and make American companies pull back in hiring.

The confidence index is closely watched because consumer spending constitutes 70 percent of U.S. economic activity.

The big question mark is the price of gasoline, which Asaf said has climbed 20 cents per gallon since the confidence survey concluded two weeks ago.

The price of gas is a big issue because it has an immediate effect on shoppers' pocketbooks, particularly low- to middle-income households that are already squeezed by higher costs for basics such as food.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Gas hits \$3.72 per gallon, up 30 cents in month

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The price of gasoline rose for the 21st straight day on Tuesday. Drivers are now paying an average of \$3.72 a gallon nationwide, about 24 cents more than before the streak began. The winter surge is being driven primarily by the rising price of oil, which has been above \$100 a barrel since Feb. 10 as tensions mount between the West and Iran over its nuclear ambitions. Gas prices are highest in Alaska, California, New York, Connecticut and Hawaii, which is tops at \$4.32 a gallon. Nationwide, gasoline prices are 10 percent higher than a year ago—and at their highest level ever for the end of February.

#### Facing costly fuel, airlines push fares higher

**DALLAS** (AP)—Airlines are up and headed higher this summer. Airlines blame soaring fuel prices which could cost them billions more than last year. That means fares, which normally rise as the summer travel season nears, could increase faster than usual. Airlines have already pushed through two price increases this year, and it's only

February, when leisure travel is slow. It's a sign of things to come. "You'll see gradual increases and then a much bigger jump in April and May when people start shopping for the summer travel season," says Rick Seaneey, CEO of travel website FareCompare.com.

#### GM likely to spend \$500M on employee payments

**DETROIT** (AP)—General Motors is likely to spend more than \$500 million on employee bonuses and profit-sharing based on the company's performance last year. GM, which made a record profit in 2011, will pay bonuses of at least \$182 million to white-collar workers such as engineers, car designers and managers on Wednesday, according to a formula obtained by The Associated Press. That's on top of \$332.5 million in profit-sharing it already agreed to pay factory workers. In the past, such payments have drawn criticism from those who believe the government shouldn't have bailed out GM and Chrysler. But GM, which made a record \$7.6 billion last year, says the payments are needed to hold on to skilled employees. It's also keeping fixed costs down by giving bonuses instead of annual pay raises.



### LEADING INDICATORS

**DOW**  
13,005.12  
+23.61  
+0.18%

**S&P**  
1,372.18  
+4.59  
+0.34%

**NASDAQ**  
2,986.76  
+20.60  
+0.69%

### EXCHANGE RATES

**In U.S. dollar terms**

Australian Dollar	0.9257
British Pound	0.628
Canadian Dollar	0.9936
Chinese Yuan	6.2955
Euro	0.7425

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7548
Indian Rupee	48.9925
Indonesian Rupiah	9095.62
Japanese Yen	80.3345
Malaysian Ringgit	2.9993
New Zealand Dollar	1.1878

Philippine Peso	42.67
Singapore Dollar	1.2474
South Korean Won	1118.96
Swiss Franc	0.8949
Taiwan Dollar	29.419
Thailand Baht	30.28



# Nation

## Romney sweeps to double Republican primary victory

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mitt Romney scored a hard-won, home state triumph in Michigan and powered to victory in Arizona Tuesday night, gaining a two-state primary sweep over Rick Santorum and precious momentum in the most turbulent Republican presidential race in a generation.

"We didn't win by a lot, but we won by enough," Romney told cheering supporters in Michigan. He also tweeted his delight—and his determination: "I take great pride in my Michigan roots, and am humbled to have received so much support here these past few weeks."

"On to the March contests," he said, looking ahead to next week's Super Tuesday races that

could go a long way toward determining the Republican who will take on Democratic President Barack Obama this fall.

Santorum was already campaigning in Ohio, one of next week's states, when the verdict came in from Michigan.

"A month ago they didn't know who we are, but they do now," he told his own supporters, vowing to stay the conservative course he has set.

The two other candidates, Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul, made little effort in either Michigan or Arizona, pointing instead to next week's collection of contests in all corners of the country.

Romney's Arizona triumph came in a race that was scarcely contested, and he pocketed all

### ELECTION 2012

#### Michigan vote

How presidential candidates fared in the Michigan primary:

As of 11 p.m. ET Tuesday

Republicans	
Mitt Romney	41 %
Rick Santorum	38
Ron Paul	12
Newt Gingrich	7
Other	2
Source: AP © 2012 MCT	

of the 29 Republican National Convention delegates at stake in the winner-take-all state.

Michigan was as different as could be—a hard-fought and expensive battle in Romney's home state that he could ill af-

### ELECTION 2012

#### Arizona vote

How presidential candidates fared in the Arizona primary:

As of 11 p.m. ET Tuesday

Republicans	
Mitt Romney	48 %
Rick Santorum	26
Newt Gingrich	16
Ron Paul	8
Other	2
Source: AP © 2012 MCT	

ford to lose and Santorum made every effort to win.

Returns from 88 percent of Michigan's precincts showed Romney at 41 percent and Santorum at 38 percent. Paul was winning 12 percent of the vote to 7 percent for Gingrich. In Arizona, with votes counted from 64 percent of the precincts, Romney had 48 percent, Santorum 26, Gingrich 16 percent and Paul 8 percent.

In Michigan, 30 delegates were apportioned according to the popular vote. Two were set aside for the winner of each of the state's 14 congressional districts. The remaining two delegates were likely to be divided between the top finishers in the statewide vote.

With his victory in Arizona, Romney had 152 delegates, according to The AP's count, com-

pared to 72 for Santorum, 32 for Gingrich and 19 for Paul. It takes 1,144 to win the nomination at the Republican National Convention in Tampa next summer.

In interviews as they left their polling places, Michigan voters expressed a notable lack of enthusiasm about their choices. Just 45 percent said they strongly favored the candidate they voted for, while 38 percent expressed reservations and 16 percent said they made the choice they did because they disliked the alternatives.

The lengthening GOP nomination struggle has coincided with a rise in Democratic President Barack Obama's prospects for a new term. A survey released during the day showed consumer confidence at the highest level in a year, and other polls show an increase in Americans saying they believe the country is on the right track.

Along with the improving economy, the long and increasingly harsh campaign, in which Gingrich and Santorum have challenged Romney as insufficiently conservative, has prompted some officials to express concern about the party's chances of defeating Obama in the fall.

Romney signaled he intends to stick to his core campaign message of fixing the economy

and reducing unemployment in a nation still recovering from the worst recession in decades.

"More jobs, less debt and smaller government—you're going to hear that" over and over in the states ahead, he said.

Exit polling showed a plurality of Republican voters in both Michigan and Arizona saying the most important factor to them in the primaries was that a candidate be able to beat Obama in November. Romney won that group in Michigan, where it mattered most, and also prevailed among voters in the state who said experience was the quality that mattered most.

Santorum ran particularly well among voters who cited a desire for strong conservatism or strong moral character.

The polls surveyed both primary day and absentee or early voters. Interviews were conducted at 30 polling places in each state. Early results from Arizona's poll included interviews with 2,535 voters, including 601 absentee or early voters interviewed by phone. In Michigan it was 2,200 interviews including 412 absentee or early voters interviewed by telephone. The margin of sampling error for the Michigan poll was plus or minus 4 percentage points, it was 3 points in Arizona.

## Prosecutor: Ohio shooting suspect is 'not well'

CHARDON, Ohio (AP)—The teenager accused of killing three students in a shooting spree in an Ohio high school cafeteria chose his victims at random and is "someone who's not well," a prosecutor said Tuesday as the slightly built young man appeared in juvenile court.

T.J. Lane, 17, admitted taking a .22-caliber pistol and a knife to Chardon High and firing 10 shots at a group of students sitting at a cafeteria table Monday morning, Prosecutor David Joyce said. Joyce said Lane will probably be charged with three counts of aggravated murder and other offenses.

The hearing came hours after the death toll rose to three, and as schoolmates and townspeople grappled with the tragedy and wondered what could have set the gunman off—a mystery the court appearance did nothing to solve.

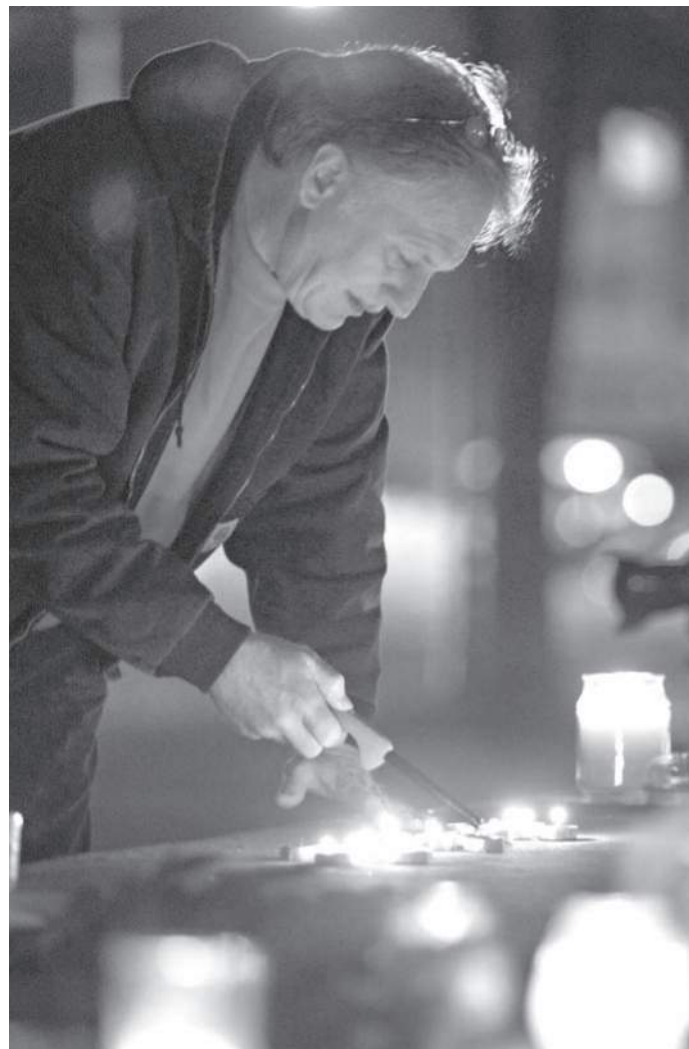
Afterward, though, the prosecutor appeared to rule out rumors and speculation that the gunman lashed out after being bullied or that the shooting had something to do with drug-dealing.

"He chose his victims at random. This is not about bullying. This is not about drugs," Joyce said. "This is someone who's not well, and I'm sure in our court case we'll prove that to all of your desires and we'll make sure justice is done here in this county."

Joyce would not elaborate. Both sides in the case are under a gag order imposed by the judge at the prosecutor's request.

Lane, a slight figure with short dark hair, seemed small next to sheriff's deputies leading him into court. His face twitched lightly while the prosecutor recounted the attack, and he sniffled and half-closed his eyes as he walked out of the room with deputies.

Lane's grandfather, who has



Tom Barstow re-lights candles at a makeshift memorial on the square in Chardon, Ohio Tuesday, Feb. 28.

custody of the teenager, and two aunts joined him in court; the women reached over and lightly embraced the grandfather as the hearing began.

Judge Timothy Grendell ordered the boy, who is considered a juvenile, held for at least 15 days. Prosecutors have until Thursday to charge him. In addition to imposing the gag order, the judge told the media not to photograph the boy's face in court.

Meanwhile, shaken residents offered condolences and prayers to the families of those killed and wounded at the 1,100-student high school, and the community offered grief

counseling to students, staff and others at area schools. All three of the dead were students, as are the two wounded victims.

"We're not just any old place, Chardon," Chardon School Superintendent Joseph Bergant II said. "This is every place. As you've seen in the past, this can happen anywhere, proof of what we had yesterday."

A Cleveland hospital said Demetrius Hewlin, who had been in critical condition, died Tuesday morning. The news came shortly after Police Chief Tim McKenna said 17-year-old Russell King Jr. had died. Another student, Daniel Parmertor, died hours after the shooting.

## 7 accused of bilking \$375M from Medicare, Medicaid

DALLAS (AP)—A Texas doctor has been charged with running a massive health fraud care scheme with thousands of fraudulent patients and intermediaries allegedly offering cash, food stamps or free groceries, to bilk Medicare and Medicaid of nearly \$375 million.

A federal indictment unsealed Tuesday charges Jacques Roy, a doctor who owned Medistat Group Associates in DeSoto, Texas, and six others in an alleged scheme to bill Medicare for home health services that were not properly billed, not medically necessary or not done.

The scheme was the largest dollar amount by a single doctor uncovered by a task force on Medicare fraud, authorities said.

U.S. Attorney Sarah Saldana accused Roy of "selling his signature" to home health agencies that rounded up thousands of patients' names and billed Medicare and Medicaid for five years.

The indictment alleged that from January 2006 through November 2011, Roy or others certified 11,000 Medicare beneficiaries for more than 500 home health service agencies—more patients than any other medical practice in the U.S. More than 75 of those agencies have had their Medicare payments suspended.

Roy, 54, is charged with several counts of health care fraud and conspiracy to commit

health care fraud. He faces up to 100 years in prison if convicted on all counts. He appeared briefly in court Tuesday and is scheduled to have a detention hearing Wednesday. Authorities also moved to seize cash in Roy's bank accounts, cars and two sailboats.

His attorney, Patrick McLain, said authorities had contacted Roy months ago. McLain said it was too soon to comment on the case because prosecutors hadn't provided him with most of the evidence yet. Phone messages and emails left with Medistat, located just south of Dallas, were not immediately returned Tuesday.

The attorney for one of the home health agency owners, Cynthia Stiger, alleged to be part of the scheme called the charges and the dollar amounts listed overblown. Stiger pleaded not guilty Tuesday.

"They're not anywhere close to accurate," said Jeffrey Grass, Stiger's attorney.

Investigators for the U.S. Health and Human Services department noticed irregularities with Roy's practice about one year ago, officials said.

Roy had "recruiters" finding people to bill for home health services, said Saldana, the top federal prosecutor in Dallas. Some of those alleged patients, when approached by investiga-

tors, were found working on their cars and clearly not in need of home healthcare, she said.

Medicare patients qualify for home health care if they are confined to their homes and need care there, according to the indictment.

Saldana said Roy used the home health agencies as "his soldiers on the ground to go door to door to recruit Medicare beneficiaries."

"He was selling his signature," she said.

For example, authorities allege Charity Eleda, one of the home health agency owners charged in the scheme, visited a Dallas homeless shelter to recruit homeless beneficiaries staying at the facility, paying recruiters \$50 for each person they found. A message was left Tuesday at Eleda's Dallas-based company, Charry Home Care Services, Inc.

Others indicted are accused of offering free health care and services such as food stamps to anyone who signed up and offered their Medicare number.

Roy would "make home visits to that beneficiary, provide unnecessary medical services and order unnecessary durable medical equipment for that beneficiary," the indictment alleged. "Medistat would then bill Medicare for those visits and services."



# Asia

## Tsunami debris spreads halfway across Pacific

**HONOLULU (AP)**—Lumber, boats and other debris ripped from Japanese coastal towns by tsunamis last year have spread across some 3,000 miles of the

North Pacific, where they could wash ashore on remote islands north of Hawaii this winter.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration es-

timated the first bits of tsunami debris will make landfall soon at small atolls northwest of the main Hawaiian Islands.

NOAA's tsunami marine de-

bris coordinator, Ruth Yender, told an online news conference Tuesday that agency workers looking for the debris were boarding Coast Guard flights that regularly patrol the archipelago.

NOAA also asked scientists stationed at Midway and other atolls to look for the debris.

Yender said that so far, no debris confirmed to be from the tsunamis has landed on American shores, including large buoys suspected to be from Japanese oyster farms found in Alaska late last year.

The buoys would have had to travel faster than currents to get to Alaska at that time if they were set loose by the March 11 tsunamis.

Similar buoys have also washed ashore in Alaska and the U.S. West Coast before the tsunami, she said.

Nikolai Maximenko, a University of Hawaii researcher and ocean currents expert, said the dispersion of the debris makes it more difficult to track but no less hazardous.

"In many cases it's not density that matters, it's total amount,"

he said. "For example, if there's a current flowing around Midway island, that island would collect debris like a trawl moving across the ocean. It will collect all the debris on its way."

One to 5 percent of the 1 million to 2 million tons of debris still in the ocean may reach Hawaii, Alaska, Oregon and Washington and British Columbia, Maximenko said.

That would only be a portion of the 20 million to 25 million tons of debris the tsunamis generated altogether, including what was left on land.



This file photo taken March 13, 2011, and provided by the U.S. Navy, shows a Japanese home adrift in the Pacific Ocean, days after a massive earthquake and the ensuing tsunami hit Japan's east coast.

AP

## China, PH argue over planned oil search

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—The Philippines said Wednesday it has the right to invite foreign companies to explore for oil and gas in waters located between its western coast and the South China Sea, dismissing China's claim to the area in a fresh spat between the Asian neighbors.

The verbal tussle erupted after Energy Secretary Jose Almendras told reporters in Manila this week that the Philippine government has invited major foreign oil companies to invest in fuel exploration in two offshore areas northwest of Palawan province that fall within the country's 200-mile exclusive economic zone.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei said in Beijing Tuesday that the offshore areas are China's.

"It is illegal for any country, government or company, without the Chinese government's permission, to develop oil and natural gas in waters under Chinese jurisdiction," Hong said when asked to comment on the Philippine plan.

Rejecting China's position, Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said in a brief statement Wednesday that the offshore areas being opened to foreign investors "are well within our sovereignty" based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Philippine officials separately accused China last year of repeatedly intruding into its territorial waters, and at least once trying to disrupt a Philippine oil exploration in another offshore area called the Reed Bank, also off Palawan.

Palawan province, about 510 miles (820 kilometers) southwest of Manila, faces the South China Sea. The sea, which surrounds potentially oil- and gas-rich islands and reefs, is claimed entirely by China, but the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam have made competing claims.

The Philippines has invited companies to explore for oil and gas in 15 areas nationwide, including in the offshore areas lying 49 miles (79 kilometers) and 76 miles (123 kilometers) from Palawan.

Almendras said Monday the Philippine government would start awarding exploration contracts to investors next month. He did not say whether the first batch of permits will cover the two areas also being claimed by China.

## Myanmar relaxes grip on media, vows end to censors

**YANGON, Myanmar (AP)**—It was a newspaper article that just months ago, Myanmar's draconian state censors never would have approved.

It told how prison authorities crudely attempted to cure a scabies outbreak by wiping down naked inmates with medicine-laden brooms—a demeaning act that revealed the poverty of the nation's prisons and the decrepit state of its health care system.

"In the past it would've been a very dangerous thing to publish," said Zaw Thet Htwe, who wrote the story and was a political prisoner himself until last month. "It wasn't allowed."

But in a sign of just how much is changing in this long-oppressed nation, it was allowed. The article was not only published this month in the Health Journal, a Yangon-based weekly, but it hit the streets without having to be reviewed first by the government's infamous censorship body, the Press Scrutiny and Registration Department.

Journalists have been jailed, beaten and blacklisted for decades in Myanmar, and the government continues to censor reporting about politics and other subjects it deems sensitive. But since last year, when the nation's long-entrenched military junta stepped down, censorship has ended on subjects such as health, entertainment, fashion and sports, and reporters are testing the limited freedom that has begun to emerge.

Today, images of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, once a highly taboo figure, routinely appear on the front pages of everything except state-controlled media. And the days of buying foreign publications, only to find sensitive stories cut out, are over.

"It's much more relaxed," said Thiha Saw, chief editor of a news weekly called Open News, who said he's now able to write freely about fires, murders and natural disasters—all prohibited at various times in the past.

The government has gone

even further, promising to abolish censorship altogether once the parliament approves a new media law later this year. The legislation, currently being drafted, would effectively allow Myanmar's independent press to publish on a daily basis for the first time in decades.

As recently as last fall, the future of journalism seemed grim in this Southeast Asian nation, which is also known as Burma. Reporters were still subjected to routine state surveillance, phone taps and censorship so intense that many were forced to work anonymously, undercover. In January, Reporters Without Borders ranked the country a lowly 169 out of 179 nations in its annual press freedom survey.

Few expected much change when the junta ceded power last March. The new government, dominated by a clique of retired officers, had risen to power in an election widely considered neither free nor fair.

But in an inaugural speech, President Thein Sein promised sweeping democratic reform, and vowed to "respect the role of the media, the fourth estate."

In June, the government quietly began removing blocks on once-banned foreign news websites. It also began allowing international newspapers and magazines to be sold without sensitive sections cut out.

Exiled reporters, for decades among the country's most fervent critics, have been allowed to return and report freely, along with once-blacklisted correspondents from foreign news organizations, including The Associated Press.

"Things are moving in the right direction," the Committee to Protect Journalists' Southeast Asia representative, Shawn W. Crispin, said Tuesday in Bangkok.

But he added, "The reforms we've seen are just scratching the surface. By any objective measure, Burma's media is still among the most repressed in the world."

Nine reporters have been freed this year, but three remain

behind bars, he said.

While "publications have been allowed to put Suu Kyi on the cover and report some of the things she says ... there are plenty of areas the press is not allowed to venture into, including any critical reporting of the ongoing conflict" between ethnic Kachin insurgents and the army in the north.

Saw, the Open News editor, said a team of around 50 government censors still spikes about 10 percent of the content in his 30-page journal each week.

But even that is progress. In the past, he said, censors were not averse to scrapping entire editions.

"We don't really expect freedom of expression in a few months or a few years," the bespectacled journalist told the AP in an interview in his small Yangon office, where a poster of Suu Kyi hangs on the wall.

Censorship has been in place in Myanmar one way or another since a 1962 military coup, he said, and "we still have a long, long way to go."

Now, writing about peace talks between the government and ethnic rebels is OK, Saw said, but stories about fighting between them are not. Pictures of refugees aren't allowed, and neither are articles about past crimes or corruption allegedly committed by ruling party officials. Also taboo: stories about student activists (like the ones who rose up in 1988) and monks (like the ones who rose up in 2007).

When dissident monk Shin Gambira was briefly detained by authorities earlier this month, "that story was killed, too," Saw said in an email Monday. "We just keep on pushing."

U Tint Swe, Myanmar's censorship boss, told the AP that censorship had historically been needed to maintain stability. But he said such edicts will be a soon be a thing of the past.

"Once the press law is out, there will be no need for the press scrutiny department at all," Swe said.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Gunmen shoot dead 16 Shiites from bus in Pakistan

**MANSEHRA, Pakistan (AP)**—Gunmen wearing military uniforms stopped a convoy of buses in northern Pakistan on Tuesday, ordered selected passengers to get off and then killed 16 of them in a grisly sectarian attack, police and a lawmaker said. The victims were Shiite Muslims, a minority in Pakistan that is frequently targeted by extremists from the majority Sunni community, said lawmaker Abdul Sattar. The gunmen spared several dozen other people in the four-bus convoy. A spokesman for a faction of the Pakistani Taliban, a Sunni militant group, claimed responsibility for the killings. The incident in the remote Kohistan region was the latest in a spasm of violence in the country in recent weeks that has demonstrated the resilience of militant networks, including groups allied to al-Qaida. The U.S. has tried to support Pakistani security forces in the fight against the

extremists, but strained relations between the two nations hamper cooperation.

#### Indian govt clarifies it accepts gay sex is legal

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—The Indian government Tuesday clarified to the Supreme Court that it accepts a recent ruling legalizing gay sex in the country. A lawyer told the Supreme Court that the government would not challenge a 2009 order by the Delhi High Court striking down a colonial-era law that made gay sex a crime. The order was appealed by conservative groups and the Supreme Court is now hearing opinions from those groups as well as gay rights activists. The latest statement comes days after another government lawyer told the court that gay sex was "highly immoral" and should be banned. The government quickly denied that lawyer's statement, prompting confusion about its stance on the law.



## World

## Wounded British journalist smuggled from Syria

**BEIRUT (AP)**—A wounded British photographer who had been trapped in the besieged Syrian city of Homs was spirited safely into Lebanon on Tuesday in a risky journey that killed 13 rebels who helped him escape the relentless shelling and gunfire.

A Syrian diplomat stormed out of an emergency U.N. meeting amid renewed calls for a cease-fire to deliver humanitarian aid. A top human rights official said a U.N. panel's report concluded that members of the Damascus regime were responsible for "crimes against

humanity."

The United Nations said the death toll in the 11-month uprising against authoritarian President Bashar Assad was well over 7,500, and activists reported more than 250 dead in the past two days alone—mostly from government shelling in Homs and Hama province.

Tunisia's president—the first since the country's own Arab Spring uprising toppled his predecessor—offered the Syrian leader asylum as part of a negotiated peace, an offer Assad will almost surely refuse.

The harrowing ordeal of

British photographer Paul Conroy, who was wounded with a French colleague last week by government rockets that killed two others, has drawn focus to the siege of Homs, which has emerged as the center of the anti-Assad uprising.

Hundreds have been killed in the city, parts of which the army has surrounded and shelled daily for more than three weeks. Many have died while venturing outside to forage for food, and activists have posted videos online of homes reduced to rubble and alleyways rendered no-go zones by snipers.

Conroy's escape was the first sign of relief for a group of Western journalists who sneaked into Syria illegally and reached the embattled Homs neighborhood of Baba Amr only to find themselves trapped. Government rockets bombarded the makeshift media center they shared with activists last week, killing two of them and injuring Conroy and French reporter Edith Bouvier. Conroy and Bouvier later appeared in activist videos lying on makeshift hospital beds, pleading for help.

Conroy crossed the border into neighboring Lebanon after leaving Homs on Sunday evening, according to the global activist group Avaaz, which said it organized the evacuation with local activists.

The group said 35 Syrians volunteered to help get the journalists out and 13 were killed in the operation.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy retracted an earlier statement that Bouvier had also made it to Lebanon. He said he had been "imprecise" due to the complexities of the situation.

"It is not confirmed that Madame Bouvier is today safe in Lebanon," he said.

The journalists believed to still be in the neighborhood are Frenchman William Daniels and Spaniard Javier Espinosa. In addition, the bodies of American Marie Colvin and French photographer Remi Ochlik, who were killed last week, are thought to be still in the neighborhood.

Syria's conflict started in March 2011, when protesters inspired by the uprisings that ousted dictators in Tunisia and Egypt took to the street in impoverished hinterlands to call for Assad's downfall. As his troops have used increasing force to try to stop the unrest,

the protests have spread, and some demonstrators have taken up arms to protect themselves or attack the regime.

U.N. political chief B. Lynn Pascoe said "well over" 7,500 people have died in Syria's violence and that there are credible reports that more than 100 civilians are dying daily. Activist groups said Monday the death toll for 11 months of unrest has surpassed 8,000.

The new U.N. death toll adds nearly 2,000 dead to last month's toll of 5,400, suggesting an acceleration in the killing.

At a meeting in Geneva, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said the situation in Syria had deteriorated rapidly in recent weeks and called for an immediate humanitarian cease-fire. She said her office has received reports that Syrian security forces "have launched massive campaigns of arrest."



In this image from amateur video made available by Shaam News Network purports to show Paul Conroy of the Sunday Times, left, and Edith Bouvier of Le Figaro in a makeshift clinic in Homs, Syria, Thursday, Feb. 22, 2012.

## Greece approves tough salary, pension cuts

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)**—Greece's Parliament late on Tuesday approved new cuts in public sector pensions and government spending required to secure a second package of international rescue loans.

Lawmakers voted 202-80 in favor of cutbacks worth a total euro3.2 billion (\$4.31 billion) and aimed at bringing the 2012 budget back in line with targets. Lawmakers from both parties in Prime Minister Lucas Papademos' coalition, the majority Socialists and the conservatives, backed the legislation.

Earlier, the debt-crippled country's Cabinet decided to apply recent labor reforms, including deep cuts to the minimum wage, retroactively to Feb. 14.

Greece is obliged to adopt a series of austerity measures and reforms before it can receive any funds from its new euro130 billion (\$174 billion) package of rescue loans from other eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund.

The bailout, and accompanying bond swap deal with private creditors, are meant to save the country from a potentially catastrophic default in late March that could drag down other financially vulnerable countries and threaten the

European Union's joint currency, the euro.

The rescue package is Greece's second in less than two years. The country has been surviving since May 2010 on funds from a first bailout from the eurozone and IMF, and has received euro73 billion (\$98 billion) from the initially approved euro110 billion (\$147 billion) package.

But more than two years of harsh austerity implemented to secure the rescue funds have taken a hefty toll on the recession-bound Greek economy, with businesses closing in the tens of thousands and unemployment at a record high 21 percent.

"It is dramatic to cut someone's pensions. ... But why do we have to take these measures? Because our budget is still running at a loss," Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos said in Parliament. "We are still adding debt to our debt. And if we do not start to generate a primary surplus next year, that will be catastrophic."

The newly approved legislation imposes nearly euro400 million (\$538 million) in cuts to already depleted pensions.

Health and education spending will be reduced by more

than euro170 million (\$229 million), subsidies to the state health care system will be cut by euro500 million (\$673 million), and health care spending on medicine will fall by euro570 million (\$767 million).

Furthermore, some euro400 million (\$538 million) will be lopped off defense spending—three quarters of which will come from purchases.

The law also revises the 2012 budget, changing the government deficit target to 6.7 percent of gross domestic product from an initial forecast of 5.4 percent.

Measures approved by Papademos' Cabinet earlier Tuesday include a 22 percent cut in the minimum salary, currently at euro751 (\$1,010) per month, for private sector workers, and a 32 percent cut for workers under the age of 25, where the rate of unemployment is nearly 50 percent.

Limits also are being imposed on collective wage agreements and the process of labor arbitration, with some measures to remain in effect until overall unemployment falls below 10 percent.

Lawmakers are to vote again on Wednesday on another bill implementing cuts that have previously been announced.

## Interpol says suspected Anonymous hackers arrested

**PARIS (AP)**—Interpol said Tuesday that 25 suspected members of the loose-knit Anonymous hacker movement have been arrested in a sweep across Europe and South America.

The international police agency said in a statement that the arrests in Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Spain were carried out by national law enforcement officers working under the support of Interpol's Latin American Working Group of Experts on Information Technology Crime.

The suspects, aged between 17 and 40, are suspected of planning coordinated cyberattacks against institutions including Colombia's defense ministry and presidential websites, Chile's Endesa electricity company and national library, as well as other targets.

The arrests followed an ongoing investigation begun in mid-February which also led to the seizure of 250 items of IT equipment and mobile phones in searches of 40 premises in 15 cities, Interpol said.

Earlier Tuesday police in Spain announced the arrest of four

suspected Anonymous hackers in connection with attacks on Spanish political party websites. These four were among the 25 announced by Interpol.

A National Police statement said two servers used by the group in Bulgaria and the Czech Republic have been blocked.

It said the four included the alleged manager of Anonymous' computer operations in Spain and Latin America, who was identified only by his initials and the aliases "Thunder" and "Pacotron."

The four are suspected of defacing websites, carrying out denial-of-service attacks and publishing data on police assigned to the royal palace and the premier's office online.

Interpol is headquartered in Lyon, France. The organization has no powers of arrest or investigation but it helps police forces around the world work together, facilitating intelligence sharing.

Anonymous, whose genesis can be traced back to a popular U.S. image messaging board, has become increasingly politicized amid a global clampdown on music piracy and the inter-

national controversy over the secret-spilling site WikiLeaks, with which many of its supporters identify.

Authorities in Europe, North America and elsewhere have made dozens of arrests, and Anonymous has increasingly attacked law enforcement, military and intelligence-linked targets in retaliation.

One of Anonymous' most spectacular coups: Secretly recording a conference call between U.S. and British cyber investigators tasked with bringing the group to justice.

Anonymous has no real membership structure. Hackers, activists, and supporters can claim allegiance to its freewheeling principles at their convenience, so it's unclear what impact the arrests will have.

Some Internet chatter appeared to point to a revenge attack on Interpol's website, but the police organization's home page appeared to operating as normal late Tuesday.

One Twitter account purportedly associated with Anonymous' Brazilian wing said the sweep would fail.

## WORLD BRIEFS

## Egypt: Judges withdraw from trial of 16 Americans

**CAIRO (AP)**—All three judges on Tuesday pulled out of Egypt's trial of 43 pro-democracy workers, including 16 Americans, according to a court official, throwing into question the case that has ripped U.S.-Egypt relations. The defendants are charged with using illegal foreign funds to foment unrest that has roiled Egypt over the past year. The pro-democracy

groups and the U.S. flatly deny the charges, and U.S. officials have hinted that foreign aid to Egypt is in jeopardy. Lead Judge Mohammed Shoukry said Tuesday that "the court felt uneasiness" in handling the case, according to the court official. He did not elaborate.

## Cruise line: Crippled ship to reach land Thursday

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)**—Helicopters ferried food, phones and flashlights Tuesday to

more than 1,000 passengers and crew stuck aboard a disabled cruise ship that was being towed to the Seychelles Islands through waters prowled by pirates. Those aboard the Costa Allegra, a sister ship of the cruise liner that capsized off Italy last month, faced more stifling days and nights before the vessel docks in the tropical paradise. The stricken liner was expected to reach the main Seychelles island of Mahe on Thursday, the Italian cruise operator said.



## Focus

**NEW YORK (AP)—Americans talk skinny but eat fat.**

No matter that First Lady Michelle Obama has been on a crusade for a year and a half to slim down the country. Never mind that some restaurants have started listing calories on their menus. Forget even that we keep saying we want to eat healthy. When Americans eat out, we order burgers and fries anyway.

"If I wanted something healthy, I would not even stop in at McDonald's," says Jonathan Ryfiak, 24, a New York trapeze instructor who watches his diet at home but orders comfort foods like chicken nuggets and fries when he hits a fast-food joint.

In a country where more than two-thirds of the population is overweight or obese, food choices are often made on impulse, not intellect. So, while 47 percent of Americans say they'd like restaurants to offer healthier items like salads and baked potatoes, only 23 percent tend to order those foods, according to a survey last year by food research firm Technomic.

That explains the popularity of KFC's Double Down, a sandwich of bacon and cheese slapped between two slabs of fried chicken. It's the reason IHOP offers a Simple & Fit menu with yogurt and fruit bowls, but its top seller remains a 1,180-calorie breakfast sampler of eggs, bacon, sausage, ham, hash browns and pancakes. It's also why only 11 percent of parents ordered apple slices as an alternative to fries in McDonald's Happy Meals.

The mixed message hasn't stopped many restaurants from offering healthier fare. After all, the government has stepped up its oversight—and influence—over the industry that it blames for America's expanding waistline. National rules about putting calorie information on menus are expected to take effect next year. And Mrs. Obama touts restaurants and companies that slash calories in foods.

But revamping a menu can be difficult and expensive, requiring months or even years. For example, it took Dunkin' Donuts four years to figure out how to make its doughnuts without trans fat—which doctors say is one of the unhealthiest types of fat—without altering the taste.

And efforts to curb unhealthy eating aren't always fruitful. In 2009, a year after New York made chains start listing calories on menus, only 15 percent of diners ordered lower-calorie foods, according to a study in the British Medical Journal.

As a result, many chains have

scaled back their efforts to roll out healthy foods. The number of health-related claims made on menus, like reduced fat or reduced carbs, fell 5 percent from 2008 to 2010, according to Technomic's study of more than 1,200 restaurant chains.

Most restaurants won't share specifics about how their salads and veggie omelets compete when they're up against burgers and crepes. But the healthy stuff appears to be only a small proportion of revenue at most chains.

The IHOP pancake house, owned by DineEquity Inc., says that Simple & Fit sales have roughly doubled in the year since the menu was introduced. But it still makes up only a single-digit percentage of revenue.

The Cheesecake Factory, which introduced a "Skinnylicious" menu in August featuring entrees with 590 calories or less, says those foods have also performed well. But sales of its decadent cheesecakes are up too. "We recognize that 'cheesecake' is in our name," said Alethea Rowe, senior director of restaurant marketing.

There's a host of reasons for the disparity between word and deed. Sometimes people who eat healthy at home want to treat themselves when they go out. Others doubt that the so-called healthier items on fast-food menus are really healthy. Even peer pressure can play a role.

Jason Sierra, who was eating

# Salads are nice, but burgers are what really sell



In this photograph distributed by AP Images for Lunch Break for Schools, Chef Suzanne Goin, from Tavern in Los Angeles, hosted a Lunch Break for Schools fundraiser on Monday, February 27, 2012.

a Whopper hamburger and fries at a Burger King in New York recently, said he's cut back on

unhealthy foods because his cholesterol and blood pressure were getting too high. But when

his office buddies order lunch, he opts for "man food" like pizza to fit in.

"One day I did try to order a salad," said Sierra, 40, who works in tech support. "And I caught hell for that."

Healthier foods also are usually among the most expensive menu items, which can be tough for recession-weary customers to stomach. Efrain Vasquez and his wife, Evelyn, were recently eating fried chicken and gravy-drenched mashed potatoes at a KFC in New York. They say there's a big difference between a \$2 burger and a \$6 salad when you're on a tight budget.

"We've got bills to pay," said Efrain Vasquez, 51, a maintenance worker who's raising four kids with Evelyn, a 37-year-old receptionist. "We try to economize."

Like so many American dieters, fast-food restaurants have tried and failed to go healthy. The Wendy's Co. burger chain led the way in the mid-1980s with a short-lived effort to sell tomato halves filled with cottage cheese and pineapple chunks on lettuce leaves.

"Consumers weren't ready for it," said Denny Lynch, a spokesman for Wendy's, where burgers and chicken are

the biggest sellers. "Or at least they certainly didn't buy it."

In 2003, during the low-carb Atkins diet craze, Domino's Pizza Inc. couldn't get people to bite on a low-carb pizza it tested in Indianapolis. "While many people at the time made their voice heard that they wanted it, few people actually ordered it," said Chris Brandon, Domino's spokesman.

McDonald's, the world's largest burger chain, says the fruit smoothies and oatmeal with brown sugar and raisins it rolled out last year are selling well, although it declined to disclose their revenue. "We would not have them on the menu if we were not selling them at a rate that we could sustain them at," said Molly Starmann, director of McDonald's family business category.

But the chain didn't always have such luck. It spent three years developing the McLean Deluxe, a 91-percent fat-free hamburger it introduced in 1991 only to suffer disappointing sales.

More recently, McDonald's got a lukewarm response when in 2004 it began offering parents the option of choosing apple slices instead of fries for Happy Meals. So, in July, McDonald's said it would stop offering a choice and instead serve a half portion of both. It had considered taking fries out of Happy Meals completely, but nixed the idea when parents in tests said "No."

For now, restaurants continue to straddle the line.

Burger King Corp. this summer pledged to promote healthier foods for kids, but announced last week that it would sell ice cream desserts nationwide, including an Oreo brownie sundae with 530 calories and 17 grams of fat. KFC introduced grilled chicken in 2009, then launched the Double Down sandwich the following year. The 540-calorie, 32-grams-of-fat breadless sandwich started as a limited-time offering, but proved so popular that the chain ended up keeping it.

Andy Puzder, CEO of CKE Restaurants Inc., which runs Hardee's and Carl's Jr., said even though his restaurants offer salads and turkey burgers, he figures his best seller at Hardee's is probably the Thickburger. The most decadent version of it comes with two types of cheese, fried onions, mayonnaise and nearly half a pound of beef and weighs in at 1,170 calories and 83 grams of fat. (The government recommends that most people consume 2,000 calories and no more than about 70 grams of fat each day.)

"We have wonderful, healthy foods if people want to buy them," Puzder said. "But they don't sell particularly well."

## Two sides to kids meals

The Center for Science in the Public Interest released a study Monday detailing calorie counts in kids meals at 13 chain restaurants nationwide.

### 5 high-calorie kids meals

By calorie count

Restaurant	Kids menu item	Calories
Chili's	Country-fried chicken, crisps, cinnamon apples and chocolate milk	1,020
Chili's	Cheese pizza, homestyle fries and lemonade	1,000
KFC	Popcorn chicken, baked beans, biscuit, fruit punch and Teddy Grahams	940
Burger King	Double cheeseburger, fries and chocolate milk	910
Sonic	Grilled cheese, fries and slushie	830

### 5 low-calorie kids meals

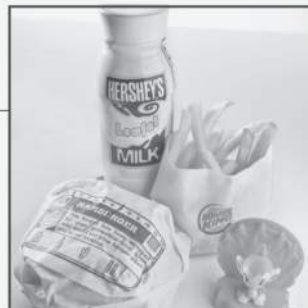
Denny's	Pancakes (no meat), with maple syrup*	373
Chili's	Grilled chicken sandwich, corn kernels and apple juice	388
Subway	Roast beef mini-sub, juice box and yogurt	400
Arby's	Popcorn chicken, fruit cup and juice	422
Subway	Ham mini-sub, juice box, apple slices and raisins	445

\*Denny's calorie count does not include beverage

Source: Center for Science in the Public Interest

Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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# Environment

## AMERICA'S GREAT OUTDOORS

# Study: Spending at national parks pumps \$31B into local economies, supporting 258K jobs

A couple skates across the frozen surface of Tenaya Lake in Yosemite National Park, California, January 3, 2012, with Yosemite high country in the backdrop nearly devoid of snow.

MCT

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Visitors to the National Park System contributed more than \$31 billion to local economies and supported 258,000 jobs in 2010, an increase of \$689 million and 11,500 jobs over 2009, according to a report issued by the National Park Service yesterday.

The announcement comes in advance of Friday's White House Conference on Conservation being hosted at the Department of the Interior that will spotlight community-driven conservation efforts as part of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative.

"Our National Parks and other public lands continue to be economic engines that produce and support jobs in communities across America," Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar said.

"It is the reason President Obama signed an executive order last month to promote travel and tourism in the United States. By investing in our parks and promoting them to visitors, especially internationally, we can have the dual benefit of an improved National Park System and a stronger economy that produces more jobs."

Salazar noted that recreation in national parks, refuges, and other public lands alone led to nearly \$55 billion in economic contribution and 440,000 jobs in 2009.

In January, Obama launched the creation of a Travel & Competitiveness Task Force to promote domestic and international travel opportunities throughout

the United States. A particular focus of the Task Force will be on strategies for increasing tourism and recreation jobs by promoting visits to our national treasures—including our national parks, wildlife refuges, cultural and historic sites, monuments and other public lands and waters that attract travelers from around the country and the globe.

"The Department of the Interior doesn't just oversee beautiful and historic places," he said. "We help drive tourism and recreation that powers small businesses and creates jobs."

The economic impact figures for the National Park System released yesterday are based on \$12 billion in direct spending by the 281 million visitors to parks in 2010 and are included in an

annual, peer-reviewed, visitor spending analysis conducted by Dr. Daniel Stynes of Michigan State University.

"National parks are best known for their incredible beauty and the preservation of America's historical legacy, but they are also critical assets for local economies," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "The investment American taxpayers make in their national parks continues to offer a huge return, not only in priceless family experiences but in real jobs and economic growth in our gateway communities that ripples to suppliers across the nation."

Most of the spending/jobs figures are related to lodging, food, and beverage service (52

percent) followed by other retail (29 percent), entertainment/amusements (10 percent), gas and local transportation (7 percent) and groceries (2 percent).

The entire National Park Service report which includes information on visitor spending by park and by state, is online at <http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/products>.

cfm#MGM, click *Economic Benefits to Local Communities from National Park Visitation and Payroll, 2010*.

For more state-by-state information on national parks and how the National Park Service is working with communities go to [www.nps.gov/STATE](http://www.nps.gov/STATE), for example: <http://www.nps.gov/virginia>. (DOI)

## Fish small, not big

Pacific Islanders are being encouraged to "fish small, not big", as the effects of climate change take a grip on their islands.

A fishing platform (or *bagan*) will help fishers change their fishing effort from large reef fish such as groupers and snappers, to small open-sea fish like sardines and anchovies.

The *bagan* was launched and tested on Tuesday, Feb. 28, in Majuro in the Marshall Islands to demonstrate a fishing practice suitable for fishers across the Pacific.

The project is the brainchild of Michel Blanc, a Fisheries Development Adviser with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, with input from the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency.

"The *bagan* is a platform with a hole in the center, winches at each corner, a lift net hanging underneath and a string of lights," Blanc said. "It's a simple idea—the fish are attracted to the lights and then we haul the net to catch them."

"We need to find new sources of food, because the population of the Pacific Islands is rising rapidly and we can no longer depend entirely on reef fisheries," he said.

SPC predicts the human population in the Pacific will increase by 50 percent by 2030, while tropical Pacific reef fish populations are predicted to decline by up to 20 percent by 2050.

Fish are becoming harder to catch because over-fishing has reduced their numbers. A threat looming over the fishery is climate change, which bleaches and then kills the coral where parrotfish, grouper and snapper live.

"Small fish like sardines have lots of advantages. They breed quickly, they are highly nutritious, and they swim in schools which makes them easier to catch," he said.

The fish can either be eaten or sold in local markets. Preparing fish for market will open up new job opportunities for women.

Part of the training involves learning new recipes. Michelsays he prefers a simple approach: "fillet the fish, cook them for a very short time in lime juice and then eat them in a fish salad."

The *bagan* is a fishing technology used extensively in Indonesia, although the 10 square meter platform was built in Kiribati and shipped in kit form to Majuro. Two Indonesians helped with the demonstration. (SPC)

## Top 7 alternatives to toxic air fresheners

By TERRI BENNETT  
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS



You know what stinks? Using toxic air fresheners at home or in your car. They can release air-polluting chemicals that can actually make you sick. Some of the most popular air fresheners on the market contain phthalates, which are known to cause everything from birth defects to cancer. There's nothing too sweet smelling about that. Do Your Part before you spray, plug in, or light some traditional air fresheners and check out Terri's 'Top 7 Safer Alternatives'.

### 1) BAKING SODA

Non-toxic baking soda is cheap, safe, and versatile. It can be sprinkled on or in everything from trashcans to carpets to stinky running shoes. It doesn't cover up smells. Instead, it absorbs and neutralizes them without releasing any pollutants in your home.

### 2) WHITE VINEGAR

Vinegar is another all natural—and super

effective—solution for tough odors. You can use it in the washing machine or dishwasher to tackle tough smells or put a little bit in small, hidden containers around your home to soak up unwanted odors.

### 3) SOY CANDLES

No one wants to light a scented candle only to breathe in petroleum by-products. When you burn paraffin candles, that's exactly what you're doing. Instead opt for natural beeswax candles or ones made from soy, which come in every scent imaginable.

### 4) OPEN THE WINDOWS

Did you know that the air inside our homes is oftentimes more polluted than the air outside? It's true. That's another reason to open up those windows and doors when you are trying to get rid of offending smells—without covering them up with chemicals. If Grandma used to do it, it'll probably work for you!

### 5) ESSENTIAL OILS

Essential oils are plant-based oils that come in all sorts of soothing scents such as lavender and lemongrass. Adding a few drops of your favorite on cotton balls is

a safer way to scent your home. You can also add a few drops to a spray bottle filled with water for another way to freshen up the air in your home.

### 6) SPICE IT UP!

Boiling a little bit of water with a sweet smelling spice such as cinnamon or nutmeg will make your home smell downright delicious. Other good options are ginger or allspice.

### 7) BUY NON-TOXIC ALTERNATIVES

If you prefer to buy a safe air freshener, you can find non-toxic ones with a little digging. Eco Breeze by Earth Friendly Products helps refresh fabrics and upholstery. Method also sells aroma rings in many non-toxic scents.

The important thing to remember is you don't want to cover up odors with chemicals and perfumes. Get rid of them—the green way. It's an easy way to Do Your Part and breathe easier.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, author, and founder of DoYourPart, everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to [terri@doyourpart.com](mailto:terri@doyourpart.com) and follow DoYourPart on Facebook and Twitter.



# Life & Style

## Paintings Hitler bought found in Czech Republic

**PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP)**—A five-year search by a Czech author has discovered that 16 paintings in the Czech Republic were once owned by Adolf Hitler.

The art works, which Hitler bought in Germany during World War II, had been moved to Czechoslovakia after it was occupied by the Nazis to prevent them being damaged by Allied attacks.

On Monday, author Jiri Kuchar put seven of the paintings on display for reporters at the convent in Doksany in northern Czech Republic where he had identified them. Today, he said, they are probably worth about 50 million koruna (\$2.7 million).

"Nobody believed me it could be true," Kuchar said of his findings. The author, who calls himself "an amateur and enthusiast," has written about his findings.

Kuchar said Hitler bought the 16 paintings—by German artists such as Franz Eichhorst, Paul Herrmann, Sepp Hiltz, Friedrich W. Kalb, Oscar Oestreicher, Edmund Steppes and Armin

Reumann—in 1942 and 1943 at the Great German art exhibitions that were held annually in Munich from 1937 to 1944.

The German institute whose database includes the works and their buyers—Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte in Munich—confirmed Hitler's ownership to The Associated Press. Its art experts said Tuesday that while "interesting," the collection is of "low" value.

As a former artist, Hitler was an art lover and collector. Countless paintings, many done by major European painters, were seized by the Nazis during the Second World War.

At one point, Hitler's private collection, known as the "Linz Collection," included almost 5,000 works, and the Nazis had once planned to create a museum for them in Linz, Austria.

In addition to the seven works identified at the convent, Kuchar



In this pictures taken on Monday, Feb. 27, 2012, Jiri Kuchar, amateur art historian, stands in front of paintings by Franz Eichhorst, left, and Friedrich Wilhelm Kalb, right, in a convent in Doksany, Czech Republic.

found seven more that Hitler had once owned at the northern Czech chateau of Zakupy, and one each at the Military History Institute in Prague and the Faculty of Law of Charles University in Prague.

Some contain obvious

signs of Nazi propaganda, the author said.

During the occupation, it is believed that the 16 works were part of Hitler's collection of more than 70 pieces of contemporary German art that the Third Reich stored at a monas-

tory in the southern Czech town of Vyssi Brod, together with larger collections of valuable paintings stolen from Jewish families in Europe.

Christian Fuhrmeister of the German institute said Vyssi Brod was one of the depots

where such seized art works were relocated to prevent damage caused by Allied air forces.

After the war, valuable paintings possessed by the Nazis were confiscated by the U.S. Army and taken to the Munich Central Collection Point in an effort to return them to their original owners. Many less valuable works were left behind after the 1945 liberation of Czechoslovakia and ended up scattered across the country.

Fourteen of the 16 works that Kuchar has identified as former Hitler possessions are now owned by the Czech National Institute for the Protection and Conservation of Monuments and Sites, and it doesn't plan to sell them or put them on public display.

"They will remain in the depository," said Ivana Chovanova, an official at the institute.

Kuchar discovered the 16 works after investigating leads from the book "Hitler's Salon" by Swiss author Ines Schlenker, which listed Hitler's art purchases at the art exhibitions in Munich during the war.

## Harvard group seeks degrees for expelled gays

**BOSTON (AP)**—Students and faculty at Harvard University are calling on the school to award posthumous degrees to seven students expelled nearly a century ago for being gay or perceived as gay, and they're timing a rally for their cause to coincide with a visit by Lady Gaga.

But Harvard says it doesn't award posthumous degrees, except in rare cases where students complete academic requirements but die before degrees have been conferred.

The university apologized a decade ago, after a student reporter found a file marked "secret court" in the university archives and wrote about the expulsions.

"In 2002, the University expressed its deep regret for the way the situation was handled as well as for the anguish experienced by the students and their families almost a century ago," Harvard spokesman John Longbrake said in a statement.

But some say the apology isn't enough and it's important for Harvard to confer honorary degrees.

"It's not reparations, it's more of a gesture to the present LGBT community that this university has cemented its values on the right side of history and it's willing to address—not just put in the past—the aberrations of the 1920s," said Jonas Wang, a 21-year-old transgender student. "You can say that the people of the court were the victims of their own culture, but this is

something we are addressing in the present."

A group of students and faculty members plan a rally during a campus visit by Lady Gaga, who will be at Harvard on Wednesday to launch her

Born This Way anti-bullying foundation. The singer has been a strong activist for the gay community.

The group wants Harvard to formally abolish the secret court, a tribunal of administra-

tors that investigated charges of homosexual activity among students at the Ivy League school in 1920. The tribunal remained a secret for decades and only became public in 2002 after the report in the Harvard Crimson



Lady Gaga

Harvard to confer the honorary

magazine.

More than 2,700 people have signed a petition on Change.org urging

degrees, and organizers plan to deliver the petition to Harvard President Drew Faust's office after the rally.

Lady Gaga's new foundation, named after her 2011 hit song and album, will address issues such as self-confidence, well-being and anti-bullying through research, education and advocacy.

### IN LOVING MEMORY

*Rita "Leischowong" Cruz Laniyo Saures*

May 21, 1950 – February 25, 2012

**In her new life, she now joins her:**

**Husband:** Thomas I. Saures  
**Father:** Alejandro Itibus Laniyo  
**Mother:** Maria Iguel Cruz Laniyo  
**Brother:** Jose Cruz Laniyo  
**Sisters:** Crispina Laniyo Norita  
Cecilia Cruz Laniyo

**Brother-In-Law:** Vicente I. Tebit  
**Reared Daughter:** Rebecca S. Warakai

**She is survived by her:**

**Children:** Michael L. Saures / Jen & Children  
Vina Claire L. Saures / Jerry & Children  
Tanya L. Saures / Schneider & Children  
Kaishia Warakai  
Franklin Warakai  
**Sisters/Brothers:** Catalina L. Tebit & Children  
Francisca L. Kapileo / Arnold & Children  
Vicente Cruz Laniyo / Hermina & Children

*Vicente "Alighscheng" Igisomar Tebit*

April 10, 1958 – February 27, 2012

**In his new life, he now joins his:**

**Parents:** Clara & Gregorio "Kapin" Tebit  
Maria Q. Bermudes  
Alonzo Igisomar

**He is survived by his:**

**Wife:** Catalina Cruz Laniyo – Tebit  
**Children:** Maria L. Borja / Nelson & Children  
Ann Marie T. Kaipat / Fred & Children  
Christopher Tebit & Children  
Gabriel Tebit / April & Children  
Vina Claire Saures / Jerry & Children  
Greg Tebit / Tracy & Children  
Alejandro Tebit / Arlene & Daughter  
Marvin Tebit  
Nicole Saures

Holy Rosary is being offered at San Jose Church at 7pm. Their remains will be escorted from CHC to Mt. Carmel Cathedral for viewing on Monday, March 5, 2012 at 7:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 11:00am. Interment service will follow at Mt. Carmel cemetery.

Olomwaay and Si Yu'us Ma'ase

*The Family*



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## Act of Valor

Friday	4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Monday thru Thursday	4:00	7:00	

Emilio Rivera, Roselyn Sanchez  
Adventure, Action • Rated R

### Synopsis

An elite team of US Navy SEALs race against the clock to stop a planned terrorist attack on U.S. soil in this film inspired by actual events, which also features a cast of active-duty soldiers. With each successful mission, the Bandito Platoon uncovers another piece of the puzzle that leads them on a worldwide chase to prevent an act of terror that could alter the course of history. Later, at the U.S./Mexico border, the fight for the future of America comes to an explosive climax. Even when it seems as if evil may prevail, the courageous, determined SEALs never show signs of backing down or giving up.



## Gone

Friday	4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Monday thru Thursday	4:30	7:30	

Amanda Seyfried, Sebastian Stan  
Suspense, Thriller • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

A young woman (Amanda Seyfried) prepares to confront the serial killer who previously abducted her, and who has now sought vengeance by kidnapping her sister in this thriller that also features Jennifer Carpenter and Sebastian Stan.

★ ★ ★



## Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday	4:05	7:05	

Nicolas Cage, Ciarán Hinds, Violante Placido  
Action • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

Nicolas Cage returns as the spirit of vengeance with this sequel to 2007's Ghost Rider from the Crank team of Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor.



## This Means War

Friday	4:25	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25
Monday thru Thursday	4:25	7:25	

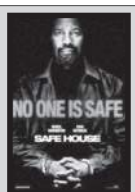
Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine  
Comedy • Rated PG 13



## Journey2: Mysterious Island

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Monday thru Thursday	4:15	7:15	

The Rock, Vanessa Hudgens, Michael Caine  
Adventure • Rated PG



## Safe House

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday thru Thursday	4:20	7:20	

Denzel Washington, Ryan Reynolds  
Spy film, Thriller • Rated R



## Chronicle

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday thru Thursday	4:10	7:10	

Dane DeHaan, Alex Russell  
Thriller • Rated PG 13

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# Dion cancels more Vegas shows on doctor's orders



In this Tuesday March 15, 2011 file photo, Celine Dion answers questions during a press conference after her opening night performance at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas.

## Ex-wrestler says 'heel' kicked him in bid to win

**JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind.** (AP)—A former professional wrestler is suing his opponent and the Indiana-based promoter who arranged their bout last year, claiming his foe was supposed to lose their match but had other ideas and kicked him so hard in the crotch that one of his testicles ruptured and had to be removed.

John Levi Miller, 23, contends in his lawsuit filed Monday that Clinton Woosley was the designated "heel," or loser, of their match last June, The Courier-Journal of Louisville, Ky., reported. He says Woosley, who wrestles under the name Guido Andretti, declined his invitation to map out the fight, as is customary, and instead said he understood the plan and that "it would be OK." However, Miller says Woosley tried to win and kicked him hard in the crotch.

Miller, who was a contestant on season two of "Love Games," an Oxygen Channel reality show, could not immediately be reached for comment. Neither he nor Woosley had listed phone numbers. In his bio on the show's website, Miller is described as an aspiring WWE wrestler who has made a few

appearances on the WWE circuit as a villain named "The Playboy J-Millz." Miller's lawyer, Larry Wilder of Jeffersonville, told the paper that Miller applied ice to the swelling after returning home from his match with Woosley, but went to a hospital the next day, where doctors ended up removing his ruptured right testicle.

Sam Cosby, who owns Coliseum Championship Wrestling, which promoted the event, told the newspaper that Miller got his facts wrong. He said Miller finished the match and actually won it, as scripted, and he said Miller gave no indication afterward that he had been injured.

"The kid never complained about nothing," Cosby said.

Miller's lawsuit, which was filed in Clark Circuit Court in Jeffersonville, accuses Coliseum and Cosby of negligence and breaching their duty to ensure that Woosley was adequately trained and understood the "moves" intended to entertain the crowd and still deliver the match's predetermined outcome. It seeks a jury trial, legal fees and unspecified compensation for medical expenses related to the surgery and other complications.

**LAS VEGAS (AP)**—Singer Celine Dion has canceled more shows at Las Vegas' Caesars Palace, citing a virus causing an inflammation of her vocal cords.

Christi Nelson, an official with show producer AEG Live, said Tuesday that the French-Canadian pop superstar has been ordered to rest her voice for six to eight weeks and will resume performances June 9.

"I tried to sing at my sound check last week, and I had no control of my voice whatsoever," Dion said in a statement. "We thought that after a few days' rest I would improve, but it wasn't getting any better."

Officials announced last weekend that Dion was canceling shows through March 3. On Monday, she was diagnosed with a viral illness and weakness in her right vocal

cord by Dr. Gerald Burke, an authority in laryngeal physiology at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles.

The singer of romantic odes including "My Heart Will Go On" and "It's All Coming Back to Me Now" returned to Caesars Palace a year ago for a three-year engagement.

The Las Vegas Strip casino spent \$95 million building the Colosseum for Dion in 2003, complete with a humidifier to protect her voice. After a five-year run at the casino, she embarked on a world tour and took time off for her family, giving birth to twin boys in 2010.

Tickets to the new show in Las Vegas sell for up to \$250 apiece.

Dion said the doctor assured her she'll be "back to 100 percent" after resting her voice, but she said she's disappointed by the cancellations.

"Obviously this is the worst thing for a singer ... not being able to do your shows," she said. "I feel worse knowing that I'm disappointing my fans. I'm so sorry ... I hope they forgive me."

## Lohan: A 'homebody' these days



In this Feb. 8, 2012 file photo, actress Lindsay Lohan attends amfAR's New York gala benefit at Cipriani Wall Street in New York.

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Lindsay Lohan says she's "clean and sober" and "a homebody" these days. And she likes it that way.

The troubled starlet's career in recent years has been upstaged by legal and personal problems. But she's on a comeback that now has brought her to NBC's "Saturday Night Live," which she hosts this week.

She acknowledges in an interview for NBC's "Today" show that repairing her dam-

aged reputation could be a lengthy process.

She admits in the interview that airs Thursday that "it could be scary for people to invest in me."

Her next project is playing Elizabeth Taylor in a biopic that she says will start production soon.

With that film as well as the "SNL" gig, she vows to "not let anyone down, especially myself."

## 'American Idol' brings back Jermaine Jones

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Jermaine Jones has a second shot at becoming an "American Idol."

The 25-year-old so-called "gentle giant" was given a last-minute spot among the male semifinalists Tuesday. The Fox singing contest's judges had previously dismissed him in Las Vegas.

The hulking singer was praised for his bass-fueled take on Luther Vandross' "Dance with My Father" during Tues-

day's performances from the 13 semifinalists.

Steven Tyler thanked Jones for proving why the judges asked him to come back.

Jones and the 12 other male semifinalists are competing to become one of this season's five viewer-voted male finalists or be among the three "wild cards" to be determined by the show's judges Thursday.

The top 12 female singers will first take the stage Wednesday.



## Gladys Knight, Gavin DeGraw among 'Dancing' cast

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Urkel, the Empress of Soul and one of the Green Bay Packers are waltzing onto "Dancing With the Stars."

"Family Matters" actor Jaleel White, singer Gladys Knight and National Football League player Donald Driver will be among the 12 celebrity contestants on the next season of the ABC dancing competition. Other famous faces participating in the 14th edition include "The View" co-host Sherri Shepherd, singer-songwriter Gavin DeGraw, "Little House on the Prairie" actress Melissa Gilbert and Disney Channel star Roshon Fegan.

The new cast, which also includes tennis player Martina Navratilova, "Melrose Place" actor Jack Wagner, telenovela star William Levy, operatic singer



In this Feb. 26, 2012 file photo, TV personality Maria Menounos arrives before the 84th Academy Awards in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles. AP

Katherine Jenkins and "Extra" co-host Maria Menounos, was announced Tuesday on "Good Morning America." The contestants will dance their first routines with their professional partners March 19 and March 26, and the first couple will be eliminated March 27.

Last season, actor J.R. Martinez and professional partner Karina Smirnoff took home the mirrorball trophy with reality TV star Rob Kardashian and partner Cheryl Burke coming in second place in front of former talk show host Ricki Lake and partner Derek Hough. Other previous champions include "Dirty Dancing" actress Jennifer Grey, Pussycat Dolls singer Nicole Scherzinger and gymnast Shawn Johnson.

## Hudson on witness list for upcoming murder trial

CHICAGO (AP)—Oscar winner Jennifer Hudson is on the witness list for the upcoming Chicago trial of the man accused of killing her mother, brother and 7-year-old nephew in 2008, according to court documents. But prosecutors haven't yet disclosed whether Hudson will actually testify at the April 9 trial of William Balfour, who was the estranged husband of Hudson's sister, Julia.

Hudson told investigators that she talked to her mother in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood every day and knew something was wrong when she hadn't heard from her by late in the morning of Oct. 24, 2008, according to the Chicago Tribune ( <http://trib.in/A0uDM9>).

Several hours later, Hudson's mother, Darnell Donerson, 57, and brother, Jason Hudson, 29, were found shot to death in the

family's home. The body of her nephew Julian King, who was Julia Hudson's child from a previous relationship, was found days later in a vehicle several miles away. Police recovered a gun from bushes near the vehicle and have linked it to the shootings.

Hudson told investigators she'd known Balfour since childhood and had advised her sister against marrying him. She said the family didn't find out about their 2006 marriage until months after it happened. Prosecutors have argued that Balfour killed the family because he was angry that Julia Hudson was dating another man.

Jennifer Hudson, 30, who won an Academy Award for best supporting actress in 2007 for her role in "Dreamgirls," was in Chicago with her family about five days before the killings.

## Actress Meryl Streep donates \$10,000 to RI school

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—Meryl Streep has donated \$10,000 to a charter school in the struggling Rhode Island city of Central Falls after a plug from fellow actress and hometown favorite Viola Davis.

Angelo Garcia, founder and director of the Segue Institute for Learning, says the check from Streep's Silver Mountain Foundation for the Arts arrived Monday. A note said it was on behalf of actress Davis, who grew up in Central Falls.

Both Davis and Streep were nominated for the best actress Oscar this year, with Streep winning the award on Sunday night.

The Segue Institute has more than 200 students in grades six through eight.

Garcia, who grew up with Davis, says the school is trying to raise money to buy the building it's in or find a new location.



Meryl Streep with the Oscar for best actress in a leading role for "The Iron Lady" at the Governors Ball following the 84th Academy Awards on Sunday, Feb. 26, 2012, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles. AP

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Charlie Sheen's new sitcom to debut June 28 on FX

NEW YORK (AP)—Charlie Sheen will be stirring up a new round of laughs when "Anger Management" arrives June 28. FX on Tuesday set the premiere date for Sheen's new sitcom, which returns him to weekly TV after his noisy exit last season from the CBS hit "Two and a Half Men." Announced last summer, "Anger Management" is loosely based on the 2003 movie about a non-traditional therapist. Fox says two episodes will air June 28. It has ordered 10 episodes for the first season. Scheduled the same night are the second-season premiere of the comedy "Wilfred," starring Elijah Wood and Jason Gann, and the third-season premiere of "Louie," starring Louis C.K. Rounding out the night is the premiere of "Strangely Uplifting," a new comedy starring Russell Brand.

### Marilyn Monroe chosen for Cannes festival poster

PARIS (AP)—Organizers of the Cannes Film Festival have chosen to honor Marilyn Monroe by selecting a photo of the Hollywood sex goddess for the poster of this year's event. The organizers said in a statement Tuesday that "50 years after her death, Marilyn remains one of the major figures of world cinema, an eternal and contemporary reference of grace, mystery and seduction." The poster shows the American actress, eyelids lowered and lips pursed, blowing out a candle on a birthday cake. The 65th

Cannes Film Festival runs from May 16 to 27. Nanni Moretti, the satirical Italian filmmaker and 2001 Palme d'Or winner, heads the jury at this year's festival on the French Riviera.

### Don Omar leads Billboard Latin Music finalists

MIAMI (AP)—Rapper and reggaeton star Don Omar leads the pack of finalists for the 2012 Billboard Latin Music Awards, Telemundo announced Tuesday. The Puerto Rican artist is named 16 times in 14 categories. He is named twice in two of the categories. Closely following is Miami's native son, rapper Pitbull. Prince Royce and the more seasoned Romeo Santos of the group Aventura, whose R&B-tinged bachata has captivated audiences, also made the top of the list. Long established acts like Mexican export and world rock phenomenon Mana did well, competing in 11 categories. Shakira was named in 10 categories. Other finalists include Wisin y Yandel, Jennifer Lopez, Juanes, Daddy Yankee and Enrique Iglesias. Katy Perry and Rihanna are both named for crossover artist of the year.

### Chicago street named after comedian Bernie Mac

CHICAGO (AP)—A sign bearing the name of the late comedian Bernie Mac has been raised over a street in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood. About 200 people, including his widow Rhoda McCullough, daughter Je'Niece McCullough and civil rights leader

Rev. Jesse Jackson, gathered Tuesday on a corner near the home where he grew up. Je'Niece McCullough says she hopes renaming the street Bernie Mac Street reminds people "they can do whatever they want to do in life." Mac, born Bernard McCullough, died in August 2008 at age 50 from pneumonia complications, after suffering from sarcoidosis, an autoimmune disease. The comedian is best known for his stand-up performance in the Original Kings of Comedy, a tour that showcased several popular contemporary black comedians, and the hit comedy series "The Bernie Mac Show."

### Belgian man arrested in LA for alleged stalking

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Authorities say an alleged stalker traveled from Belgium to Los Angeles in the hopes of getting close to comedian Esther Povitsky, who has appeared on Jimmy Kimmel's late night television show. Sheriff's officials said Tuesday that Pierre Van Lint was arrested at a Hollywood hotel after showing up at a comedy theater where Povitsky performs. The comedian told investigators she had been receiving unsolicited emails from Van Lint for eight months, some of which she described as aggressive and inappropriate. The number of emails increased in the 48 hours prior to his arrest. Van Lint was booked on stalking charges and held on \$50,000 bail. The 23-year-old Povitsky performs in Los Angeles and has also appeared on the Fox TV comedy "New Girl."

## Free kidney screening was wake-up call to good health

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR ABBY:** For years, I suffered from high blood pressure and diabetes. I never had a clue that they are the two leading causes of kidney failure. After reading in your column about National Kidney Month, I decided to take your suggestion and go to the National Kidney Foundation website at [kidney.org](http://kidney.org).

When I attended their free screening through the Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP), I found out that high blood pressure can damage the kidney's filtering units, that diabetes is the No. 1 risk factor for kidney disease and how important it is to keep them both under control.

That screening was a wake-up call for me. I now take insulin for my diabetes and medication for my blood pressure. I have cut out salt and starch, added lots of vegetables to my diet, and 30 minutes on the stationary bike to my daily routine. My efforts have paid off. Last year when I was screened again at the KEEP, I learned that my kidney function has increased.

Tens of millions of Americans are at risk for kidney disease. Won't you please remind your readers again how important it is to be screened? For me it was a lifesaver.

JERRYDEAN QUEEN, NEW ORLEANS

**DEAR JERRYDEAN:** I'm pleased that my column alerted you to your risk for kidney disease, and that you caught it in time.

Readers, March 8 is World Kidney Day. The National Kidney Foundation is again urging Americans to learn the risk factors for kidney disease and be screened so you can prevent damage to these vital organs. For advice on how to stay healthy and a schedule of free screenings—not only during March but also throughout the year -- visit the National Kidney Foundation online at [kidney.org](http://kidney.org).

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** Someone gave a very inappropriate eulogy for someone my family cares about dearly. Is it worth it to say something to him? "Alton" lost his mother, a really good person who was loved by many, and he attacked her during his eulogy.

Alton shared quite a few details about his mother's life that no one needed to know. But the bottom line is, she was a good person who made some mistakes toward the end of her life. Alton is arrogant and mean and has a long history of verbally attacking family members.

People are still talking about the eulogy. There were individuals at the service who called him names, and a few walked out in tears. Word spread to people in other states within minutes after the service ended.

Is it worth pointing out to an arrogant jerk that his eulogy was appalling and has caused a lot of anger? Should one of us step forward and say something to him, or just chalk it up to "once a jerk, always a jerk"?

COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EARS IN ARIZONA

**DEAR COULDN'T BELIEVE YOUR EARS:** I vote no, because I seriously doubt that anything you could say would shame an arrogant, mean jerk into admitting he made a mistake by speaking disrespectfully of his mother at her funeral. A better way to handle it would be for those who were offended to avoid him. A deafening silence may convey the message more loudly than words.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



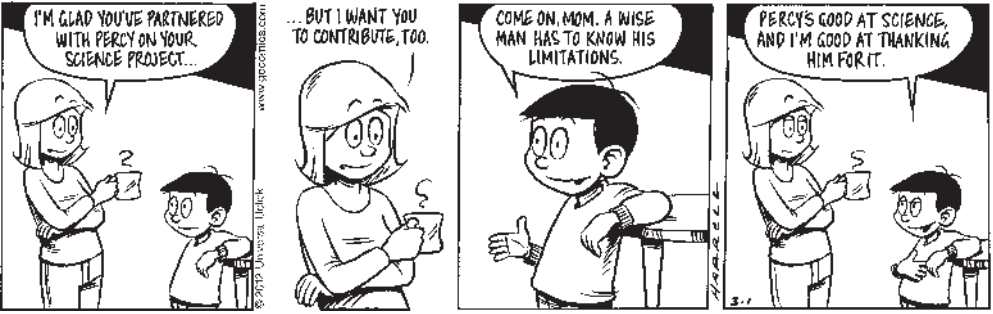
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Airport schedule data (Abbr.)

5 Mop the deck

9 Kimono closer

12 Anger

13 Sit for a photo

14 Pal of Wynken and Blynken

15 Ancient Mariner's burden

17 Right angle

18 Theatrical

19 American emblem

21 Perform-ing

22 Mythical lecher

24 Geek

27 — capita

28 Billions of years

31 Away from WSW

32 Raw rock

33 Potential syrup

34 Prob-ability

**DOWN**

36 Eggs

37 Wan

38 Hidden supply

40 — usual

41 One of the Donald's exes

43 Snare

47 Venusian vessel?

48 Colonial sewer

51 —

52 Island neck-wear

53 Arctic diving birds

54 "May-day!"

55 Ticklish Muppet

**36** For fear that

**20** Favor-able vote

**22** Wait on

**23** Vicinity

**24** Ultra-modernist

**25** Conclu-sion

**26** Relief provider

**27** Milne bruin

**29** "Unh-unh"

**30** Agent

**35** Actor Mineo

**37** Star-related

**39** Larry the — Guy

**40** Whatever number

**41** "— the word"

**42** Roundish hairstyle

**43** Old U.S. gas brand

**44** Libertine

**45** Requests

**46** "Hey, you!"

**49** Conger, for one

**50** Quarter-back

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 3-1**

**STUMPED?**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Justin Bieber, 18; Javier Bardem, 43; Ron Howard, 58; Alan Thicke, 65.

**Happy Birthday:** Don't let others slow you down. You have to think outside the box and be willing to take a different approach if you want to outdo the competition. Don't start wars when getting along will help you avoid interference. Being focused and productive will make a positive statement that leads to advancement. Your numbers are 4, 14, 22, 27, 31, 36, 44.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Keep personal matters a secret. Information in the wrong hands can lead to consequences that are uncontrollable. Focus on improvements you want to make and skills you want to learn. Romance is in the stars. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Trust your judgment over someone else's point of view, especially when it comes to financial concerns or how you earn your living. Giving someone else control will cause an argument that will ruin your relationship. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't waffle under pressure. Prepare for any circumstance that arises by remaining calm and applying practical solutions. Stay away from anyone playing emotional mind games with you. Find a way to secure your position personally and professionally. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Start a new hobby or do something out of the ordinary. You need to spice up your life and experience something that will inspire you to use your

imagination and discover your hidden talents. By-pass regret by becoming a participant. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Take stock of your past and indulge in memories that will bring your emotions to the surface. Remembering experiences that taught you a lesson will help you avoid future mistakes. Offer suggestions, but don't donate your cash. Live and learn. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You'll pay a price if you take action without giving thought to how others feel. Opposition will lead to a heated debate that is untimely and costly. Don't make a big deal out of something you can subtly change over time. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** You will win favors and support if you are honest regarding your motives and show sincerity and respect for the people you are dealing with. Love and romance are in the stars, and a commitment can be made. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Stick close to home. Don't pay for someone else's mistake. You must protect your possessions and assets, regardless of the circumstances. Reconnect with someone who has skills that can help you achieve your goals now. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** You won't know which way is up if you get involved in an argument with someone who masterfully executes emotional blackmail. Back away and rethink your position before you fall into a trap that will be difficult to escape. ★★

**EUGENIA LAST**

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Put more emphasis on health and self-improvement. Getting rid of bad habits will bring you one step closer to perfection. Take heed of the criticism given and you will be able to fix any flaw you have. Invest in you and your future. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Follow your heart and your basic instinct and you will find your way to the top. You have plenty to offer someone who believes in you. A commitment will inspire you to finish what you start and to aspire to greater heights. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't meddle or you will be stuck in a no-win situation. Problems with friends, relatives and neighbors will leave you in an awkward position. Someone from your past may comfort you, but the person will also add to the dilemma you face. ★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are a creative dreamer. You imagine, project and strive for completion.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

**SUDOKU**

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer**

Difficulty Level ★★

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**WONDERWORD** By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**BRUNO MARS** Solution: 9 letters

H H D G T H M L I B R A D I O  
L O A R R S T A R T I N G S O  
O N N R E E O U R E G G A E E  
V O C E M A N L A R T I S T T  
E L E K Y O M A @ T Y A D O T  
R U R A Z M N @ D S P Y N U E  
I L F T A E @ I G E N E O Q D  
A U I I L @ D O C R O Y T U A  
N C L T R I L N N A S A E E N  
O K I A T S I A P G L S C R  
I C P T H L T A O N R P A L E  
L A I T G O E W W I R O N I B  
L L N O I L O Y B A B E C C O  
I C O O R O U N D G H M H K B  
B A S S D S E C N A T S I D S

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Again, Artist, Baby, Bass, Bernadette, Billionaire, BOB, Bruno, Clack, Click, Dancer, Distance, Doo Wops, Dream, Filipino, First, Gene, Grenade, Harmonica, Hawaii, Hernandez, Honeymoon, Honolulu, Lazy, Libra, Little, Lost, Love, Luck, Marry You, Notes, Peter, Play, Poem, Quotes, Radio, Reggae, Rest, Right, Rock, Round, Solo, Song, Starting, Taker, Tattoos, Today

**Yesterday's Answer: Battles**

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Applicants must send required documents to [dblas@guam.net](mailto:dblas@guam.net) or P.O. Box 3065 Hagatna, GU 96932. Interviews will be held in March on Saipan. For more information call Dawn at (671) 688-7151.

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**Tour Guide Supervisor (1)**  
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**Tour Guide (15)**  
Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent with at least 2 years of Tour Operations, Sales or Service related job experience. Must be able to speak Chinese. Ability to read, write, and understand Mandarin is an advantage. Must have excellent communication, organizational and selling skills. A valid driver's license is required along with a clean driving record. Availability to work on evenings, holidays and weekends is also required.

**HR Officer (1)**  
Requires: Associate Degree in Human Resource or Business Management with at least 4 years of HR experience in the Recruitment, Employee Relations and Compensation and Benefits functions. Must be knowledgeable of local and federal employment laws and proficient in MS Office applications especially Excel and Power Point. Ability to speak or understand Chinese Mandarin is an advantage.

**Accounting Clerk (1)**  
Requires: Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 2 years work experience in cash management within a busy working environment. Must be proficient in the use of MS Excel, Word and Power Point. Must be able to work under time pressure, meet tight deadlines and can work flexible hours.

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Requires: High School Diploma, GED or equivalent. Must be proficient in various computer software applications. Preferably Chinese speaking, and able to read, write, and understand Mandarin. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service and interpersonal skills at work. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Applications can be obtained at HR Office at the 2nd floor of the JP Center in Beach Road. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than March 9, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2012**

Opening date: February 23, 2012 Closing date: March 8, 2012

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancy:

(1) Staff Engineer (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. For Rota vacancy, applications may be picked up at the CPA's Administration Office of the Rota International Airport; and for Tinian's vacancy, applications may be picked up at CPA's Administration Office of the Tinian International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than **4:30 p.m., March 8, 2012.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing. For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Manahane by email at [acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp) or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO  
Executive Director

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:  
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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# Rangers slugger Nelson Cruz happy to be healthy



**SURPRISE, ARIZ.**  
(AP) —

Nelson Cruz grins as he envisions the player he might be for Texas if only he can stay on the field.

Cruz tweaked his offseason routine in hopes of not tweaking his hamstring. Or quadriceps. Or any other body part, for that matter.

The Rangers would be thrilled if he could bring that big bat on a regular basis.

"I think a lot about that," Cruz said of his 2012 potential. "I have to do it. I think this year could be the year. I don't know what I could do. The main thing is to contribute daily and then go from there."

The 31-year-old slugger is so determined to stay off the disabled list and play a full season this year for the two-time AL champion Rangers that he worked to drop 12 pounds from his previous playing weight of 240 and take some pressure off his lower body. He did more jumping drills to strengthen his troublesome legs. He met up with teammate Mike Napoli in Miami to work out this winter and find a program he believes will work—finally.

"I feel my hamstrings are strong and flexible. I don't know the last time they felt this way," Cruz said. "I've just got to go out there and play, and make sure I stay there for 150-160 games."

Last year's AL Championship Series MVP has played 128 games or fewer in each of



Texas Rangers right fielder Nelson Cruz signs autographs during baseball spring training, Sunday, Feb. 26, 2012, in Surprise, Ariz.

AP

the past three seasons because of injuries, and has never played more than that number of games during his seven-year big league career. He has five stints on the disabled list since 2010 and last year was sidelined for 29 games because of a strained left hamstring and strained right quadriceps muscle.

Now, Cruz also is taking pride in backing up his new incentive-laden \$16 million,

two-year contract.

"Yeah, more security, you know, security for my family. That's all about it," he said. "Go out there now and enjoy my game and try to do my best."

He earned it, all right.

Cruz is one of the main reasons the Rangers returned to the World Series for a second straight year. He hit six homers and drove in 13 runs during the ALCS against Detroit—both major league re-

ords for a postseason series. That included the first game-ending grand slam in postseason history. Cruz became the first player with extra-inning homers in two games of one series.

In 33 career playoff games over the last two years, he batted .270 with 14 home runs and 27 RBIs.

Cruz has long since proven himself, and knows that gives him some clout around the club-

house. Not that he plans to alter his focused approach or flaunt anything. At the start of spring training, he said he had yet to treat himself to anything new with the money.

"I come here to get ready. There are different years when you come to make the team. It changes the way you think, the way you come and do your job," he said, noting with the new contract, "Probably come

and play harder and try to do better. I've got to play the same way I played before. Nothing's going to change."

The Rangers will ease Cruz into his routine this spring and monitor his work, including limited base running.

"We're going to do everything we possibly can to keep Nelson healthy for the whole season," manager Ron Washington said.

Washington would like nothing more than to be able to write Cruz's name into the lineup on a daily basis again. He insists Cruz could put up big numbers if he just stays healthy.

"I think he could put up an MVP year if could stay on the field for 155 games," Washington said. "I just think he has that type of ability. We can't predict how the game flows, can't predict when someone is going to go down. What's most important is when he is on the field, he produces."

Cruz is counting on helping Texas make another special run come October - he hopes with a different result at the end.

Against St. Louis in last year's World Series, Texas twice was within one pitch of winning a Game 6 clincher before falling in 11 innings. The Rangers blew an early two-run lead in a 6-2 Game 7 defeat.

"For me it's over already. As soon as we lost that game it was over," Cruz said. "I know it was the World Series ... it was enough time to get over. There's no doubt in my mind we can go back there. We have the same group of guys. We have the same attitude. We're hungry to go back there and win it."

## Braun sample collector says he followed protocol

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The person who collected Ryan Braun's urine sample that tested positive for elevated levels of testosterone said he followed the collection program's protocol.

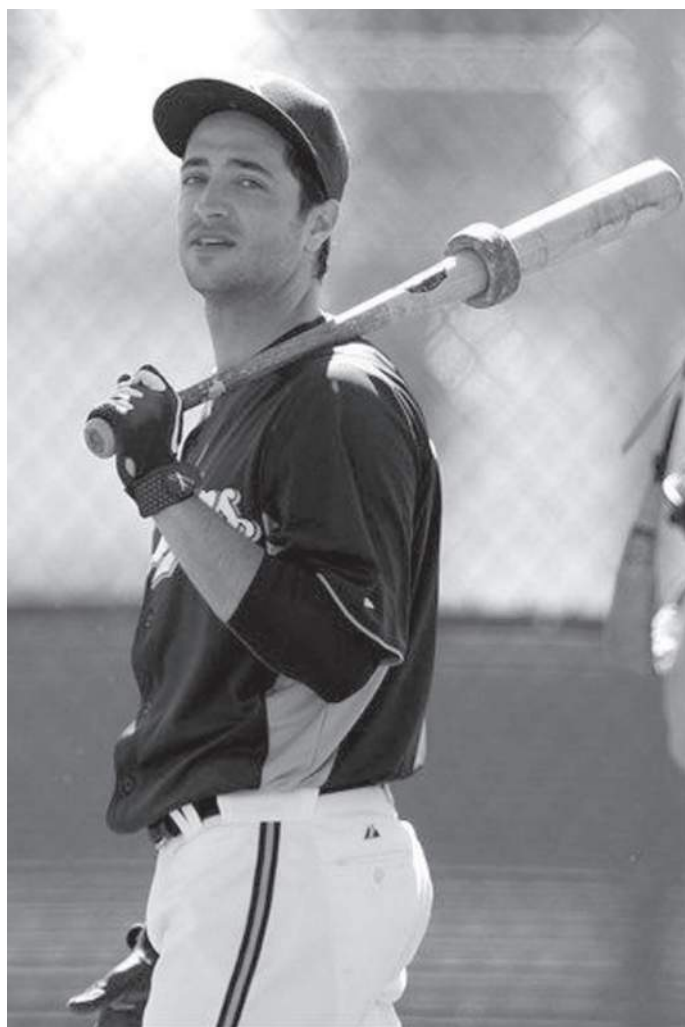
Dino Laurenzi Jr. issued a statement Tuesday confirming he handled the sample submitted following a play-off game on Oct. 1. He says he has been a collector for Comprehensive Drug Testing since 2005 and has taken more than 600 samples for Major League Baseball's drug-testing program.

"At no point did I tamper in any way with the samples," Laurenzi said.

Laurenzi's name emerged last week after the NL MVP's 50-game suspension was overturned, making Braun the first big leaguer to successfully challenge a drug-related penalty in a grievance.

Braun was not available for comment Tuesday at the Brewers' spring training camp in Phoenix. Asked for reaction to Laurenzi's statement, Milwaukee outfielder Corey Hart declined comment.

Laurenzi said he stored Braun's sample in his basement in accordance with



Milwaukee Brewers outfielder Ryan Braun waits for his turn to take batting practice during baseball spring training Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012, in Phoenix.

AP

CDT's protocol because there was "no FedEx office located within 50 miles of Miller Park that would ship packages that day or Sunday."

Braun, however, has said at least five FedEx locations within 5 miles were open until 9 p.m. and there also was a 24-hour location.

Laurenzi said the operating procedure is to "safeguard" the samples at home until FedEx can ship the sample to the lab.

"There have been other occasions when I have had to store samples in my home for at least one day, all without incident," he said.

Laurenzi added that he had "performed my job duties with integrity and professionalism, and have done so with respect to this matter and all other collections in which I have participated."

He said he issued the statement "to set the record straight."

In his statement, Laurenzi said he graduated from Wisconsin in 1983 and held master's degrees from North Carolina and Loyola University of Chicago. He said he is now the full-time director of rehabilitation services at a

health care facility.

Laurenzi said he was a member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, had worked as an athletic trainer and done volunteer work with Olympic athletes.

Laurenzi said he had collected samples for MLB in four different years and had done collections for other professional sports leagues.

Last week, Braun said he was the "victim" of a "fatally flawed" system.

"There are a lot of things that we heard about the collection process, the collector and some other people involved in the process that have been concerning to us," he said. "But as I've dealt with the situation, I know what it's like to be wrongly accused of something, so for me to wrongly accuse somebody wouldn't help."

MLB had no comment, and referred instead to its statement from last week:

"The extremely experienced collector in Mr. Braun's case acted in a professional and appropriate manner. He handled Mr. Braun's sample consistent with instructions issued by our jointly retained collection agency," it said.

## Valentine already tweaking the Yankees

**FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)**—Bobby Valentine has only been wearing a Boston Red Sox uniform for about two weeks. That isn't stopping him from taking a few jabs at the archrival New York Yankees in pinstripes already.

Valentine grinned a little on Tuesday when he recalled how retired Red Sox catcher Jason Varitek "beat up" Yankees star Alex Rodriguez during a confrontation in 2004.

He also called into question the claim that Derek Jeter practiced his famed flip-to-home relay that nailed Jeremy Giambi at the plate in Game 3 of the ALDS in 2001.

On Jeter's clutch play, Valentine says he believes the initial throw from the outfield would have got Giambi without the flip. And on the Yankees saying Jeter practiced it, Valentine said "I don't believe it."



# Allen, Garnett lead Celtics past Cavaliers



**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Ray Allen scored 22 points and Kevin Garnett added 18 as the Boston Celtics beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 86-83 on Tuesday to snap a five-game losing streak.

Boston, which couldn't hold a 16-point lead in the first quarter, avoided its first six-game skid since dropping seven in a row from April 4-15, 2007.

Kyrie Irving returned from a bruised elbow that sidelined him late in the second quarter and led Cleveland with 24 points, 19 in the second half.

Irving hit two free throws with 1:21 remaining to give Cleveland an 81-80 lead. After Allen missed a 3-pointer, Garnett tipped Irving's pass, leading to Allen's dunk with 48.6 seconds left.

## Nets 93, Mavericks 92

In Dallas, Brook Lopez scored 38 points in only his third game back from a broken right foot, and made the go-ahead free throws with 42 seconds left for New Jersey.

The two free throws by Lopez came right after the Mavericks had taken the lead with a 13-2 run after missing 14 consecutive field goals.

Jason Kidd's 3-pointer from the right wing only 6 seconds earlier had put Dallas ahead 92-91.

Jason Terry forced a turnover with 18 seconds left, and Dallas called timeout. Kidd then had the ball in the left corner, but it was knocked loose by DeShawn Stevenson. Kidd got it back but his desperate heave at the buzzer was short.

## Bulls 99, Hornets 95

In Chicago, Derrick Rose scored 32 points, including the go-ahead jumper with 19.4 seconds left, and Chicago closed with an 8-0 run.

Joakim Noah had 15 points

and 16 rebounds for the Bulls and Carlos Boozer and Luol Deng added 14 points apiece. Rose scored six points in Chicago's final run.

Chris Kaman had 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Hornets and Trevor Ariza scored 16 points.

## Pacers 102, Golden State 78

In Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 25 points to help Indiana win its fifth straight game.

Tyler Hansbrough scored 15 points and Roy Hibbert added 12 points and nine rebounds for the Pacers, who remained in third place in the Eastern Conference.

Monta Ellis and Brandon Rush each scored 14 points for the Warriors, who finished with season lows in points and field-goal percentage (.341).

## 76ers 97, Pistons 68

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Thaddeus Young scored 12 of his 20 points in a pivotal second quarter and All-Star Andre Iguodala had 12 points, six assists and four steals to help Philadelphia snap a five-game losing streak.

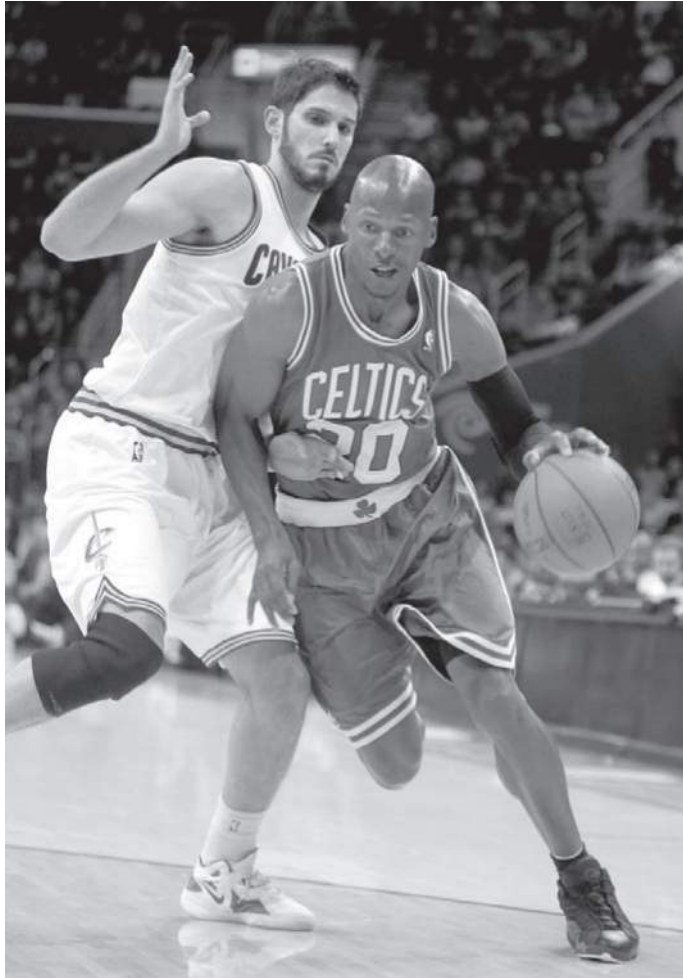
Sixers coach Doug Collins left the bench between the third and fourth quarters, walking to the team's locker room, and didn't return to the court because of flulike symptoms.

Philadelphia's Elton Brand scored 10 points, returning from a two-game absence because of a sprained right thumb.

Greg Monroe scored 20 points and Rodney Stuckey had 17 for the Pistons.

## Timberwolves 109, Clippers 97

In Los Angeles, Derrick Williams and Michael Beasley each scored 27 points, teaming up to lead a fourth-quarter shooting barrage as Minnesota beat the Pacific Division-leading Los An-



Boston Celtics' Ray Allen, right, drives past Cleveland Cavaliers' Omri Casspi, from Israel, in the first quarter in an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012, in Cleveland.

geles Clippers in the teams' first game since the All-Star break.

Williams and Beasley each had 13 points in the fourth. Williams finished 9 of 10 from the field while making all four of his 3-point attempts and all five of his free throws. Beasley hit 11 of 15 from the floor, including all three of his 3-pointers.

Blake Griffin scored 30 points, Chris Paul added 27 and DeAndre Jordan had 14 points and 14 rebounds for the Clippers.

## Kings 103, Jazz 96

In Sacramento, California, DeMarcus Cousins had 22 points and 18 rebounds as Sacramento celebrated a possible new arena

deal with a victory over struggling Utah.

The city, the Kings and the NBA announced a tentative deal Monday to finance a new arena that would be built by 2015 and keep the team in Sacramento for many years. The City Council will vote on the plan March 6.

Marcus Thornton scored 21 points and made five of six free throws in the final 16 seconds to help the Kings secure the win.

Rookie guard Isaiah Thomas had 18 points and eight assists for the Kings. Thomas, the last player chosen in the 2011 draft, started his fifth consecutive game at point guard. He has scored 96 points in those five games to tie a franchise mark set

by Otis Birdsong in 1977.

Devin Harris had 18 points and seven assists for the Jazz.

## Rockets 88, Raptors 85

In Houston, Kyle Lowry scored 26 points, and Luis Scola had 15 points and 10 rebounds as Houston beat Toronto.

Kevin Martin scored 14 points, though he missed a key free throw with 11.7 seconds left that gave the Raptors a chance to tie it. But Linas Kleiza missed a long 3-point try, Martin corralled the rebound and the Rockets won for the 18th time in the last 25 games.

DeMar DeRozan scored 17 points, James Johnson had 16 and Ed Davis tied a career-high with 15 rebounds for the Raptors. Toronto outrebounded Houston 47-37, but went 2 for 17 from 3-point range and committed 17 turnovers.

## Bucks 119, Wizards 118

In Milwaukee, Ersan Ilyasova scored on a tip-in with 2.2 seconds left as Milwaukee handed Washington its fifth consecutive defeat.

Mike Dunleavy scored a season-high 28 points for the Bucks, who snapped a six-game losing streak at home.

Brandon Jennings took an inbounds pass with 6.8 seconds left and drove left of the lane, attempting a short jumper. It

# Rams willing to deal No. 2 draft pick

By R.B. FALLSTROM  
AP SPORTS WRITER



The St. Louis Rams are willing to trade the second overall pick of the April draft.

Chief operating officer Kevin Demoff said Tuesday that the team would make a deal under the right circumstances, but has not made any commitments despite a report late Monday that a trade had already been decided. He said new coach Jeff Fisher and general manager Les Snead went to the NFL combine with an open mind.

"I think coach Fisher and Les have been upfront that we will listen to offers for the (hash)2 pick," Demoff said in an email to The Associated Press. "I didn't see anything in the report that differed from their statements."

Quarterbacks Andrew Luck and Robert Griffin III are expected to go 1-2 in the draft, with Indianapolis holding the top pick. The Rams need plenty of help but are set at quarterback with Sam Bradford, the first overall pick in 2010.

Among a group of perhaps 50 or 60 players that the Rams are believed to have interviewed at the combine are Southern California offensive tackle Matt Kalil and Oklahoma State wide receiver Justin Blackmon, a pair who would fill obvious holes.

# Bryant has concussion to go with broken nose

**EL SEGUNDO, Calif.** (AP)—Kobe Bryant has a concussion in addition to the broken nose he sustained in the All-Star game.

The Los Angeles Lakers say Bryant saw a neurologist on Tuesday and he diagnosed the concussion. The All-Star guard will see Dr. Vern Williams again on Wednesday, and his status for that night's home game against Minnesota is day-to-day.

Bryant was first examined Tuesday by an ear, nose and throat specialist, who confirmed his broken nose and referred him to Williams.

Bryant was injured during Sunday night's game in Orlando, Fla. He was struck by Miami Heat star Dwyane Wade, who said Tuesday that he has apologized to Bryant for breaking his nose.

bounced off the rim, but Ilyasova had position and tipped in the miss for the winning points.

Roger Mason Jr. then received an inbounds pass on the baseline for Washington but was called for traveling with 1 second to go without getting off a shot.

While the Colts are widely expected to take Luck as the eventual heir to Peyton Manning, it is Griffin who has sparked the speculation. Last year's Heisman Trophy winner from Baylor is seen as a good fit with a number of teams, increasing the likelihood of the Rams dealing the second pick in a bid to stock up.

But the draft is still two months away and free agency has not begun.

Fisher, hired in January, has consistently maintained he has a high regard for Bradford and believes he can become a star. Fisher dismissed last season's performance to a large extent because of injuries to Bradford and his offensive line, plus a time shortage getting accustomed to offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels' system because of the lockout.

Bradford missed six games with a high left ankle sprain playing behind an injury riddled line. Tackles Rodger Saffold and Jason Smith, and guard Jacob Bell ended the season on injured reserve.

The defense also needs help after threatening the franchise record for yards allowed.

Fisher and Snead were hired after the Rams' 2-14 season tied for the NFL's worst. They were just 10-38 in three seasons under coach Steve Spagnuolo, who was fired along with general manager Billy Devaney. McDaniels is also gone.

# Woods' agent criticizes book by former swing coach



**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.** (AP)—Tiger Woods' agent lashed out Tuesday against Hank

Haney's book, saying his "armchair psychology" about Woods was "ridiculous" and that it was clear the former swing coach only cares about self-promotion.

Haney's book about his six years as Woods' coach is titled, "The Big Miss." It is to go on sale March 27, a week before the Masters.

Golf Digest began releasing small excerpts Tuesday on its tablet applications and on its website. Haney's book was written with help from Jaime Diaz, a senior writer at the magazine who has covered Woods more extensively than anyone over the years.

In one of the excerpts, Haney, a McKinney, Texas, golf guru, said his job became more dif-

ficult in 2007, when Woods had 12 majors and was getting closer to the record 18 won by Jack Nicklaus.

"There was more urgency and less fun. ... He never mentioned Nicklaus' record, but it started to weigh more heavily at every major," the excerpt said. "And Tiger's actions indicated he believed he had less time to do it than everyone thought."

Haney said the objective of revamping his swing was to preserve his left knee.

He also said Woods was seriously considering becoming a Navy SEAL. Woods' father, Earl, was a green beret in the Army who did two tours during the Vietnam War.

"I didn't know how he'd go about it, but when he talked about it, it was clear he had a plan," Haney writes in the excerpt. "I thought, 'Wow, here is Tiger Woods, greatest athlete on the planet, maybe the greatest athlete

ever, right in the middle of his prime, basically ready to leave it all behind for a military life.'"

Mark Steinberg, Woods' agent at Excel Sports Management, said in a statement that excerpts show Haney's claim of the book being about golf is "clearly false."

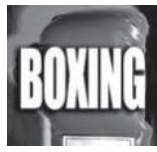
"His armchair psychology about Tiger, on matters he admits they didn't even discuss, is ridiculous," Steinberg said. "Because of his father, it's no secret that Tiger has always had high respect for the military, so for Haney to twist that admiration into something negative is disrespectful."

Haney also mentions the time Woods spent four days of special operations training in 2004 at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"Tiger did two tandem parachute jumps, engaged in hand-to-hand combat exercises, went on four-mile runs wearing combat boots, and did drills in a wind tunnel," Haney wrote.



# Mayweather says Pacquiao 'not one of the sharpest'



**NEW YORK** (AP)—A trumpet blared a fanfare to introduce Floyd Mayweather Jr.

and Miguel Cotto as fans at the Apollo Theater cheered the start of Tuesday's news conference to promote their May 5 fight in Las Vegas.

Still, there appeared to be far more interest in the fight that's not happening—a matchup between Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao. Mayweather made clear that whether they meet in the ring is about the money—breaking down the shares in what could be boxing's richest fight ever.

"Just by speaking to Pacquiao on the phone, I mean, he's not one of the sharpest knives in the drawer," Mayweather said. "He faces Floyd Mayweather, he's not getting 50-50. Not at all. No one is getting 50-50."

While Mayweather urged Pacquiao should "take the test," a reference to his demand for random drug testing, payout appears to be the real sore point between Mayweather on one side, and Pacquiao and Top Rank promoter Bob Arum on the other. Arum has said testing is not an issue.

"Bob Arum likes to match Top Rank fighters with Top Rank fights. He keeps all the money in house," Mayweather said.

This dispute has spilled into federal court. Pacquiao sued Mayweather for defamation in December 2009, alleging Mayweather falsely accused him of



Boxers Floyd Mayweather, left, and Miguel Cotto pose for pictures during a news conference, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012, in New York. Mayweather and Cotto are scheduled to fight May 5 in Las Vegas.

using performance-enhancing drugs. Pacquiao spent 12 hours in Las Vegas last week giving depositions in the case.

"If I offered him \$30 million, he should be happy," Mayweather said. "If I offered him \$30 million and I didn't give money on the back end, why should I? He's with Arum right now, and they're having problems. It's obvious he must not be getting money on the back end."

Mayweather says he's not ducking Pacquiao, who stopped Cotto in the 12th round of their November 2009 fight.

"If I'm scared and I'm a coward, why do you guys want to see me fight?" he said. "Do I want the Pacquiao fight? Absolutely. But it's going to be hard to make the fight because Arum is wor-

result, but the latter received the nod via tiebreaker rule, 27-24.

Tudela joins January's co-aces Richard Atalig and James Mitchell. Filtaga awards co-winners when the turn out exceeds 20 participants.

Monthly aces receive a \$150 cash prize and automatic entrance into its season-ending Golfer of the Year Tournament held every January. The club also award a \$300 cash prize for those lucky enough to sink a hole-in-one.

The annual membership fee is \$50, exclusive of monthly green fees. Filtaga uses a USGA-approved handicap system posted on their web site, [www.filtaga.com](http://www.filtaga.com), which features computer-based scoring calculations. Visit their Facebook page to view photos of recent events.

Filtaga events are held once a month, usually on the third Sunday.

Filtaga's March Ace event is tentatively scheduled for March 19 at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

For membership or other information, contact Mike Cruz at 483-7171, Mando Guban at 483-6033, Rene Batallones at 898-3367, George Sablan at 483-4530, Larry Pascual at 287-1233, or email [filtaga@hotmail.com](mailto:filtaga@hotmail.com).

ried about getting money."

As boxing news conferences go, this was fairly tame. In the second of a series that began Monday in Puerto Rico and end Thursday in Los Angeles, Mayweather and Cotto praised each other and said they respected each other. Video projections proclaimed them "Ring Kings" and "Living Legends." They sat in tall chairs of red velvet with lions on the arm rests.

Mayweather was the snazzier, in white jeans, a black turtle-neck sweater, sunglasses. There was bling on his left wrist, and the rapper 50 Cent was part of his onstage entourage. Cotto, who got the bigger cheers, was in a black suit, black shirt and striped tie.

Mayweather defended his

Feb. 14 tweet, in which he said: "Jeremy Lin is a good player but all the hype is because he's Asian. Black players do what he does every night and don't get the same praise."

Mayweather said most of the focus was on the second sentence and the first was largely ignored.

"Do I regret what I said? Absolutely not. I stand by what I said, and I meant what I said," Mayweather said.

Cotto, who has stopped all three of his opponents since losing a welterweight title fight to Pacquiao, thinks the 154-pound weight limit will favor him over Mayweather, who has boxed at lighter classes.

"Power is going to be on my side," Cotto said.

## TSUNAMI

From Page 28

AAAA times.

Only Sugie met qualifying times for two events, while Rivera, Toda, Yanai, and Yoo each made the grade for one event.

Nine-year-old Rivera met the 50m freestyle mark after submitting 40.23 seconds in previous

## 29

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The selection will depend on the coaches," Aguon said.

Omar Ajoste is the head coach of Team B with Edsel Mendoza assisting him, while Quincy Johnson will handle Team A with Ed Manalili as his assistant.

The four mentors are happy with the composition of the

tournament. She raced on Heat 3 of the 50m freestyle event and touched the wall simultaneously with Saipan Swim Club's Taiga Sato. Sato's teammate Lennosuke Susuzi had the fastest time in the heat at 37.72 seconds.

The 11-year-old Toda qualified in a longer race—200m backstroke. He submitted a BB time in the Invitational 2, post-

pool, saying that players are willing to learn and worked together as a team.

"They are very coachable and are eager to learn. As for the weakness, we're lacking off-island competition experience even though we do have six of the seven boys who went to Palau last year for the 15U MBT returning to the pool," Manalili said.

"Overall most of the boys are playing in the current MISO and

ing 3:12.07. Toda raced with teammate Kensuke Kimura, who logged 2:22.02, just a few seconds away from his personal best of 2:20.05.

Yanai is in the same age group with Toda and hit the qualifying time in the 50m freestyle after completing last month's race in 32.79 seconds. Yanai earned an A time, finishing third on his heat. Joining Hiroto on Heat 1

private school leagues. They have also played or are playing in the different leagues here on island and that's a big plus," the assistant coach said.

Manalili and company started searching for members of the developmental pool mid January and held training sessions twice a week. Then in the last week of February until this week coaches called off practices, as players are prepping up for the MISO caging playoffs.

## CNMI

From Page 28

The match between the CNMI and Ehime University, a school based in Matsuyama, Ehime, Japan was played for three quarters with each frame lasting for 40 minutes.

After the early goal, the CNMI tried to regroup on defense, but the visitors again found another opportunity to score with Shinnosuke Matsumoto finding the back of the net at the 8th minute.

Down 0-2, the Commonwealth held on strong on defense in the remaining minutes of the first frame and then shut out Ehime in the first 32 minutes of the second period before

giving up five more goals.

The visitors finally scored after more than one hour of silence when Takahiro Tsuzuki hit the board with his first goal in the 73rd minute. Tsuzuki made it two in a row, as he also eluded CNMI defenders three minutes later for Ehime's commanding 4-0 advantage.

After Tsuzuki's damage, the hosts stepped up anew on defense for almost 20 minutes before another Ehime attacker—Wataru Nakamura—scored in the 97th minute.

The score went to 6-0 in the third and final period, as it was Kai Saitoh's turn to hit a goal, making his first in the 113rd minute. Then one minute before the buzzer, Ran Nakao scored to

complete Ehime's domination of the CNMI.

The CNMI failed to nail a single goal, as Peter Loken, Arkie Reusora, and Jehn Joyner, who teamed up in their victory over Japan Soccer College, were marked men in their second exhibition match.

Joining Loken, Reusora, and Joyner in last Tuesday's match were Ruselle and Raphael Zapanta, Dale Roberts, Eric Cook, Chris Nelson, Brad Ruszala, Steve McKagan, Adam Walsh, Daniel Agulto, Brian Lee, Dakota Hall, Kenneth Domingo, Dan Wollack, Enrico Del Rosario, Trey Dunn, and goalies Johann Noetzel and Evan Hunsberger.

Ehime University listed 16

division, Boranah teamed up with Hannah Choi and they won in two games against the mother and daughter pair of Loida and Angie Ito of Taga, 21-11, 21-17.

The other women's A doubles match played last week saw Saturno and Alvarez outclass the Berks' Lampera and Lani Bartolome, 22-20, 21-18.

Saturno is also competing in the women's B doubles with

Montano and they triumphed over Villafior and Gigi Zapanta, 21-10, 21-3. Saturno and Montano went 2-0 in Week 1, but their second win came after three games against Tolentino and Loida Ito. Montano and Saturno faltered in the opening game, 15-21, but still came out on top in the end after sweeping the last two games, 21-13, 21-10.

In another three-game battle, Obata and Labuson dropped

## WBL meeting Friday



The Women's Basketball Association (WBL) will be hav-

ing its annual membership meeting this Friday, March 2, 6:30pm at the Garapan Community Guidance Center in Garapan.

The agenda will include election of new officers, revival of the women's basketball program, and creation of events calendar and development pathways for both athletes and coaches.

For more information, contact Connie Camacho at 287-4824 or email at [concam@yahoo.com](mailto:concam@yahoo.com). (PR)

of the 50m freestyle race were SSC's Victoria Chentsova (30.90 seconds) and Kento Akimaru (31.15 seconds) and younger brother Ryuto Yanai (33.65 seconds).

Yoo also qualified in a sprint event—the 50m breaststroke. He posted 45.81 seconds for a BB time and the fastest among four swimmers on Heat 3.

The pool will resume intensive training a week after the next.

"Training in March will be on strength and conditioning. This will be done outside the gym, giving way to the men's team that is getting ready for the March Madness in Guam. April will be on the court until the tournament nears," Aguon said.

The May tournament will have the CNMI challenging teams from Guam, Yap, and Palau.

players on its junior team. Completing the roster were Takashi Okidono Ryusi Nishi, Takuya Enami, Ryohei Naniwa, Junpei Nakashima, Takaaki Tsuda, Kouta Yamamoto, Takuto Maeda, Kouta Yoshida, Tsukasa Kitao, and goalkeepers Tatsuya Murase and Takuya Oishi.

The same junior squad plays its second exhibition game tonight when it faces a selection from Northern Mariana Islands Football Association at 6pm. NMIFA players are from the various teams in the men's league.

Then on Tuesday, March 6, Ehime's senior squad will challenge Noetzel and company for the final exhibition game this month.

their opening game, 17-21, but prevailed in the last two against Curate and Kim, 21-8, 21-18, to grab the victory.

The third three-set win of the week came from the women's C doubles with Obi and Kazuko Sodheim slipping past Naguit and Tupaz, 21-14, 16-21, 21-19. Then in another women's C doubles results, Lazaro and Pagarao swept SBC's Ortega and Esther Choi, 21-9, 21-16.

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**  
[walter\\_sutherland@saipantribune.com](mailto:walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER



Randy A. Tudela topped 15 other golfers and was crowned Fil-Taga Golfers As-

sociation's February Ace after the conclusion of their monthly tournament held last Feb. 19 at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Tudela scratched a 54 on the front nine and a 55 on the back for a gross tally of 99 that adjusted to a 67 net score.

He edged out runner-up Jess Yumul, who posted a 48 on the front and a 49 after the turn for a gross card of 97 that actually tied Tudela's net total. However, the latter was issued the win via tiebreaker rule.

The tiebreaker formula is determined by adding the players' gross scores on the back nine minus their respective handicaps, therefore Tudela defeated Yumul, 29-34.

Jhun Calma finished in third place with a 42 on the front nine matched with another 42 on the backside for a raw score of 84 that worked into a 69 net count.

Nestor Siruelo started out with a 45 and finished the last nine holes with a 43 for a gross score of 88 that mirrored Calma's net



# 2012 MISO Girls Soccer Finals

PHOTOS By  
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



MHS' Melody Johnson goes to work from the right wing.



A Saipan Southern High School defender intercepts the ball from a pair of Marianas High School forwards in the finals of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization's 2012 girls soccer championship held last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



SSHS' Marrielle Gariguez, left, and MHS' Jeraldine Castillo both make a break for the ball.



A MHS player throws in the ball.



A SSHS player takes a free kick



MHS' Jeraldine Castillo hustles down a cleared ball.



A trio of SSHS Lady Manta Rays move the ball up field in formation.



A SSHS defender makes a nice kick save right in front of the goal.

**Activity Schedule for March 1, 2012**

**8:00 AM to 12:00 PM:** Morning practices

**6:30 PM to 9:30 PM:** Evening practices

**2012 Tan Holdings Intercompany Basketball League**

**7:00 PM:** Saipan Grand Hotel vs. JP Center-TSL Plaza

**9:00 PM:** D&Q-CTSI vs. Shirley's Coffee Shop

There are no scheduled games.





**Rangers slugger Nelson Cruz happy to be healthy**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Allen, Garnett lead Celtics past Cavaliers**



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28 THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## 5 Tsunami swimmers make grade for Guam meet



Tsunami Saipan's Takumi Sugie, seen here in a local meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, posted qualifying times for the Guam tournament in May.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**F**ive more Tsunami Saipan swimmers qualified for the 2012 Guam Swimming Championship after meeting the event's standard times during the All Island Invitational 2.

The list includes Kyona Rivera, Ryosei Toda, Hiroto Yanai, Takumi Sugie, and Heongjoo Yoo, who posted qualifying times during the Feb. 18 tournament at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Sugie is qualified to join the 100m butterfly and 50m backstroke events in the Guam tournament in May after his strong showing in last month's All Island Invitational 2. Sugie timed in at 1:17.53



in the 100m butterfly for a BB time in the 13 to 14 age group. Then in the 50m backstroke, the 13-year-old swimmer clocked in at 36.70 seconds, another BB time. Tsunami Saipan just like any other swim clubs uses age group time standards designed to encourage its members to step their swimming up to the next level. Levels start at Level B and up to Level C. **See TSUNAMI on Page 26**

## 29 cagers make up CNMI developmental pool

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Twenty-nine players were selected to the CNMI junior basketball developmental pool after a series of tryouts and training sessions at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium.

Trainer Rufino Aguon said those picked were divided into two teams and they will be playing in the 2012 U17 Micronesian Basketball Tournament that Saipan will be hosting from May 7 to 12.

Team A is composed of William Jesse Camacho, Jimmy Tudela, Bryl Alegre, Jack Aranda, Jay-



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
Jaymark De Guzman, seen here playing for Saipan Southern in the MISO caging, was selected on the CNMI developmental pool that will compete in the 2012 U17 Micronesian Basketball Tournament on Saipan in May.

mark De Guzman, Nevin Salem, Shane Deleon Guerrero, Chris Mizer, Jacob Palacios, Ethan Manalili, Josephus Aguilar, and Jed Villanueva. Majority of the members of Team A are playing in the varsity division of the MISO caging and some had already represented the CNMI in the MBT U15 tournament in Palau last year. The team has two 14- and 15-year-old players, three 17-year-olds, and five 16-year-olds.

Team B listed 17 players: John John Capuyon, Kobee Mendoza, Karlo De Leon, Richard Hofschneider, Emerson Feria, Ivan Sanarez, Mike Yap, Richard Ada, Edilberto Javier, Lester Lapuz, Joshua Villagomez, Shawn Escalada, Donald Hockett, Brandon Regis, L.J. Hemley, Tyler Palacios, and Jun Alipio, who is the youngest on the squad at 12.

"Team A roster is final, but if something happens to a player, he will be replaced by one of the members of Team B. The final roster for Team B will be announced at the end of April, at the latest.

**See 29 on Page 26**

## CNMI strikers fall to Ehime

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The CNMI battled a tougher foe in the junior team of Ehime University and bowed to the visitors, 0-7, during

Tuesday night's exhibition game at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The loss came after the Commonwealth strikers recorded its first exhibition game victory over Japan Soccer College, 2-1, last Friday.

Four days after a morale-boosting win over Japan Soccer Soccer, the hosts were stunned by a quick goal from Ehime's Daichi Hamamoto only two minutes into the 40-minute first period.

**See CNMI on Page 26**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI players position on defense during their exhibition game against the junior team of Ehime University Tuesday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

## Easy wins in women's doubles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Sweeps were the theme in the opening week of the women's doubles events in the 2012 Tan Holdings Doubles Badminton Competition, as 10 of the 13 matches at the TSL Sports Complex over the weekend were won af-

ter only two games.

Saipan Badminton Club's Lee So Young and Heo in Sook booked back-to-back victories via sweeps last weekend in the women's B doubles, while Alma Ortega and Kim Boranah, Rose Lazaro and Irish Pagarao, Merlie Tolentino and Christy Villafior, Marylyn Montano and Cheng Saturno, Anna Alvarez and Saturno, Lucelle Lampera and Annette Quimbao, Arlene Naguit and Jane Tupaz, and Hannah Choi and Boranah also prevailed in

their respective matches in two games.

Lee and Heo downed players from Shirley's Badminton Club, first beating Elma Labuson and Toshiko Obata, 21-19, 21-12. In their second win, Lee and Heo topped Windy Fernandez and Chris Obaldo, 21-15, 21-16.

Ortega and Boranah, also of SBC, are entered in the women's B doubles, too, and easily defeated Taga's Midori Obi and Rose Lazaro, 21-9, 21-4.

Lampera and Quiambao and Naguit and Tupaz of the Berks Blazers are also in the women's B doubles and swept Taga's Obi and Lazaro, 21-14,

**See EASY on Page 26**